THE OXFORD PAPER

Thursday, March 29, 2018 No.85 theoxfordpaper.co.uk 60p

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New U's boss excited by challenge Sport

Weekly leisure guide for in & around Oxford

Gang carried out 'unimaginable level of abuse' on teenage girls

By George Welch

A 'DESPICABLE' sex gang who subjected vulnerable young girls in Oxford to an 'almost unimaginable level' of abuse have been found guilty of multiple offences.

The grooming ring of eight men was convicted of more than 20 offences including rape and indecent assault, against six teenage girls between 1998 and 2005. The girls were aged between 13 and 17 at the time of the offences.

The men worked together to groom some of the victims, befriending them and building trust, police said.

Some of the girls were given lifts and taken to parties as well as being given alcohol and drugs.

Over time, the victims were subjected to a series of indecent assaults and rapes.

The defendants were convicted at Oxford Crown Court on Friday after a five-month court case. Assad Hussain, 37, of Iffley Road, Oxford, guilty of five counts of rape and two counts of indecent assault, not guilty of one count of indecent assault, Kameer Iqbal, 39, of Dashwood Road, Oxford, guilty of three counts of rape, Khalid Hussain, 38, of Ashhurst Way, Oxford, guilty of rape and indecent assault, not guilty of one count of rape. Kamran Khan, 36, of Northfield Road, Bolton, guilty of indecent assault and false imprisonment, not guilty of rape. Mozaul Islam, 41, of Wykeham Crescent, Oxford, guilty of rape, two counts of indecent assault and supplying cannabis, not guilty of false imprisonment. Raheem Ahmed, 40, of Starwort Path, Oxford, guilty of two counts of indecent assault and false imprisonment, not guilty of rape. Alladitta Yousaf, 48, of Bodley Road, Oxford, guilty of indecent assault. Haji Khan, 36 of Willows, Oxford, guilty of one count of rape and one count of conspiracy to rape.

Two others who stood trial, Saboor Abdul, 37, of Oxford Road, Oxford and Cee Jay Jackson, 56, of Leon Close, Oxford, were acquitted of all charges.

Child protection charity NSPCC praised the courage of the girls for giving evidence.

A spokesperson said: "Thanks to the bravery of their victims who, despite the violence inflicted on them, showed tremendous courage to face their abusers in court and help convict them of their crimes."

Senior Investigating Officer, Detective Chief Inspector Mark Glover, of Thames Valley Police Major Crime Unit, said the convictions were only possible because of the "incredible bravery" of the gang's victims.

He said: "To have come through that trauma, and to have been able to help and support us throughout our investigation is a testament to the strength of their characters."

The jury returned verdicts on February 27, March 15, March 22 and March 23.

The eight convicted will be sentenced at the same court in June.

Fitness fanatics put a new spin on time travel

OXFORD fundraisers pumped up the volume on their boom box and dug out their sweatbands for an 80s themed spin-a-thon.

The event took place at the Ferry Leisure Centre on Tuesday last week to raise funds for Sport Relief as the shell-suited exercisers stepped back in time.

Campaigners for this charity helped Oxford live up to its billing as a fit and healthy city.

In 2016, Oxford was revealed as one of the fittest cities in the country with the highest number of people working out at least once a week.

A number of other events took place at the north Oxford leisure centre during the packed week-long fundraising campaign.

Fitness fanatics took part in a 90 minute high-intensity circuit session and swimmers joined in a 1km swim challenge.

Donations were made to the nationwide Sport Relief campaign to get more people active and fundraise for vulnerable adults in the UK.

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Health trust fined £2m over two deaths in care

By George Welch

THE NHS trust responsible for the drowning of teenager Connor Sparrowhawk has been fined £2million.

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust admitted "systemic failures" and pleaded guilty last year to breaching health and safety laws

It was also sentenced for health and safety breaches in relation to the death of Teresa Colvin in Hampshire at the same Oxford Crown Court hearing on Monday

Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith fined the trust £1.05m for Connor's death and £950 000 for Mrs Colvin's

Passing sentence at Oxford Crown Court, he said each death was an "unnecessary human tragedy"

He added that Connor s mother, Dr Sara Ryan, had endured "utterly unjustifiable criticism as she pursued her Justice for LB campaign"

Connor 18 was found dead at Southern Health's Slade House Headington, in 2013 after suffering an epileptic seizure when left alone in a bath.

His mum said in a statement after the sentencing "No one should die a preventable death in the care of the state

"Families should not have to fight for answers and accountability They should not have to raise funds for legal representation at a time of unspeakable grief and pain.

Connor Sparrowhawk drowned in a bath at Slada House in Haadingtan In 2013

"Southern Health dug deep into publicly funded pockets and armed itself with a range of legal weaponry and dirty tricks

"The #JusticeforLB campaign has shone a light on systemic failings in the care of learning disabled people

"We have collectively and effectively revealed weaknesses in regulatory practices, a disregard for the lives and deaths of certain people and the limitations of work by large established charities in this area."

Southern Health acknowledged both deaths were "entirely preventable" and were "a matter of significant regret" it did not address its failures quicker.

Chief executive Dr Nick Broughton, who was not in charge at the time of the deaths, said he wanted to "apologise unreservedly"

The judge said there was no solid evidence to demonstrate that a fine would impact public services so the trust, which has a budget deficit of around £1 69m, has two months to pay the fine

Dr Ryan added. "I m left thinking tf Connor was here now, in the shadow nf Oxford Crown Court and St Aldate's police station, he would repeatedly ask 'why mum?'

"I'd reply I don't know matey but we've done you proud "

Mrs Colvin died at Southampton General Hospital in April 2012 after she was found unconscious at Woodhaven Adult Mental Health Hospital.

"The JusticeforLB campaign has shone a light on systematic failings in the care of learning disabled people"

"No one should die a preventable death in the care of the state"

Connor Sparrowhawk's mother Sara Ryan

InBrief

Window cleaning burglars thwarted

TWO suspected burglars were frightened off by an elderly woman s son and daughter-in-law after they offered to clean her jewellery' with window cleaning solution.

The 75-year-old woman was at home in Donnington Bridge Road on Wednesday afternoon last week when a man came to her flat asking if he could fill up a plastic spray bottle that he was using to clean windows.

She let the man in and he used water in the kitchen. He sprayed her windows with the substance and told her to place a necklace in the sink so it could also be sprayed.

The man then left and returned with another man and they both had a look around the property

The pair fled when the woman s son and daughter-in-law challenged them about what they were doing.

Nothing was stolen in the incident

Police described one of the offenders as a white man, with a scruffy beard, and with an Irish accent. He was wearing a dark bobble hat and was holding a spray pump bottle

The second offender was a white man, of stocky build who was aged in his forties and 5ft 7ins tall.

Contact police on 101 quoting 43180086689 with information.

£1.8m for potholes

OXFORDSHIRE has been given £1.8million to help repair roads affected by recent bad weather

The county council said it needs more money from the Department for Transport to fully rectify issues caused by the damage

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Brexit protesters ask 'is it worth it?'

CAMPAIGNERS protested against Brexit during a weekend long event in Oxford marking the anniversary of the UK government's decision to leave the EU

Oxford for Europe held the public event in Broad Street on Friday to kick-start a series of regional anti-Brexit rallies and marches around the country

Labour peer Andrew Adonis and former editor in chief of the Observer Will Button spoke at the open-air public rally in favour of overturning the Brexit vote.

Mr Hutton said the campaigners would "win the argument" by recognising many of the people who voted for Brexit did so "as an act af economic and social protest"

"Too many arts of our country have been badly neglected and it's no accident that two thirds of people who earned less than £20 000 a year voted Brexit " he said

"They had nothing to lose and hoped for something better"

Oxford for Europa campaigners gathered outsida tha Sheldonian Theatre as part of series of national marches and rallies

Lord Adonis said. "We are English, we are British and we are European and we re proud of it

"We are not giving up we can win this there is absolutely no reason why Brexit has tahappen "

The 'is it worth it? event was part of a national campaign to stop Brexit through a new people's vote

Thieves flee empty handed in eighth ram raid

RAM raiders used axes and crowbars in try to steal a cash machine from a Dideot supermarket

The raiders fled the Aldi store on Broadway when they realised staff members were inside.

The gang smashed a grey 4x4 into the store at about 2 30am.

Nothing was taken and no one was injured but damage was caused to the shop

This is the eighth ram raid to take place in the county in recent months. Police are yet to confirm whether the incidents are linked.

Contact police on 101 with any information.

Outdoor gym boost to fitness

BARTON residents will soon be working up a sweat after a new outdoor gym built to improve healthy living and integrate the area with a major housing development was unveiled.

The £69 000 redevelopment of Fettiplace Recreation Ground was officially opened last week.

The park now has a fitness trail consisting of six free outdoor gym equipment stations.

Improvements to disabled access, benches, signage and greenery along Bayswater Brook have also been made.

It is the first step in creating a fitness trail linking Barton to the 885 home Barton Park development.

Barton is one of the 10 NHS England Healthy New Towns focusing on how the environment can encourage people to get active.

Councillor Mike Rowley ward member for Barton and Sandhills said, "It's really good to see benefits start to come to the existing Barton Estate from all the development that's going on.

"When you work hard and don't have much money it can be a struggle to lead a healthy life, and I hope the new fit trail – along with the Healthy New Towns work going on and improvements to the local GP surgery – will have a real impact for people in Barton."

City councillors Mark Ladbrooke, Mike Rowley and Linda Smith try out the new equipment

School shut after hoax bomb threat

By George Welch

A BOMB threat that closed an Oxford school on Friday is being treated as a hoax.

Oxford Spires Academy pupils were sent home in the morning after the school received a 'malicious email'

Principal Marianne Blake said she did not want to take any risks and closed the East Oxford school.

Police searched the school buildings before declaring the site safe and the email a hoax.

Miss Blake said, "I should like to thank you all for your support during this morning's (Friday's) unexpected events. Both our parents and our students were a credit to the school.

"A malicious email was sent to our school relating to a suspicious item. We acted immediately to inform the police and our academy trust. We followed the trust's safety guidance while liaising with our local police who arrived at the school very quickly.

"Our students and staff's safety is paramount and for this reason, I decided not to take any risk, but to contact parents and to close the school for the rest of the day."

Oxford Spires Academy was closed on Friday
Picture Steve Daniels

She added, "The police and our site staff conducted a thorough search of the buildings and concluded that the threat had been a hoax.

"The police are now investigating to determine the source of the malicious communication."

Thames Valley Police confirmed they were called to the Glanville Road school at about 7.55am following reports of a malicious email relating to a suspicious item.

A spokesperson said, "Officers attended the site and assisted school staff with a search of the premises. Nothing was found and the email is being treated as a hoax.

"An investigation will take place to determine the source of the malicious communication."

The school, which looks after more than 1 100 pupils, reopened on Monday.

The closure came just days after 400 schools across England were shut when they were sent a hoax threat demanding cash.

It is not yet known if the incident is linked or whether the threat is considered credible.

InBrief

Assistance arrest

A 25-year-old woman has been arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender in connection with a murder investigation in Oxford.

Christopher Lemonius 27 was found injured in Jourdain Road, Blackbird Leys, on June 1 last year. He later died in hospital.

Ten people have now been charged – six with murder and four with perverting the course of justice.

Thames Valley Police said the arrested woman was released under investigation.

Sex assault on bus

A TEENAGER was sexually assaulted on a bus when a man tried to put his hand in her pocket.

Police have released a CCTV image of a man who may have vital information regarding the incident.

The assault occurred at around 3.50pm on November 12 last year on a bus bound from Oxford city centre to Headington and Barton.

A man boarded the bus at Queen Street, Oxford, and sat next to the 18-year-old woman.

He then proceeded to place his hand on her leg and attempted to put his hand in her pocket.

Anyone who recognises the man in the image should call Thames Valley Police enquiry centre on 101 quoting reference number 43170336903.

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Charter to end rough sleeping

By George Welch

A CHARTER aiming to eradicate rough sleeping in Oxford will be proposed in the summer as the city's battle with homelessness progressed to the next stage.

Oxford City Council announced last week that the authority and its partners had agreed the next steps of a strategy towards helping those sleeping rough.

The announcement of the forthcoming charter follows a City Conversation event last November during which a wide range of groups discussed how the issue could be tackled.

The charter is the next stage and further views – including those of current and former rough sleepers – will be asked from groups who have a direct interest in homelessness.

The council and its partners will then publish the Rough Sleeping Charter, which will be accompanied by a citywide partnership board.

Councillor Mike Rowley, responsible for housing and the council, said: "The effects of the national homelessness crisis are all too obvious on the streets of Oxford, so I am delighted we are taking the City Conversation forward with some of our key local partners.

"Together, we will produce proposals for a citywide partnership to tackle rough sleeping and a Rough Sleeping Charter in the early summer."

The council will pay £150 000 over the next two years to support the City Conversation and fund the development of the charter and permanent partnership board.

Claire Dowan, chief executive of Homeless Oxfordshire, welcomed the announcement.

She said: "The issue of rough sleeping is complex and moving people off the streets requires complex support and solutions.

"A system change needs to happen. The City Conversation is a real opportunity and I look forward to seeing how this develops and working collectively to reduce street homelessness."

Cllr Rowley added: "If a charter and a permanent partnership can be agreed, the real hard work to deliver our vision – that nobody should have to sleep rough on the streets of Oxford – will then begin."

InBrief

Boundary changes

TIME is running out for Oxford people to have their say on Oxford City Council ward boundaries.

As part of an electoral review, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is looking into re-jigging districts.

The Commission will consider all views and aims to publish draft recommendations in June.

Have your say at tinyurl.com/ybp3xqqs before Monday's deadline.

Tourism awards

OXFORD Visitor Information Centre on Broad Street has been shortlisted for an industry award.

The centre picked up a nomination in the Visitor Information Provider of the Year category at the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence.

Blenheim Palace was nominated for Large Visitor Attraction of the Year.

Chief executive Sally Balcombe said the finalists have "shown themselves to be of the highest calibre". Winners will be revealed on April 23.

Rate relief on offer

MORE than 150 small businesses in Oxford are set to benefit from an extra £118,000 in rate relief.

The extra rate relief comes as part of Oxford City Council's Discretionary Relief Scheme, which has already provided more than £261 000 to 253 small businesses.

Museum well on the way to new look after lottery cash

THE Museum of Oxford's fundraising campaign could soon be a thing of the past after receiving more than half of its target from a single donation.

The St Aldate's institution was last week awarded a grant of £1.63million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Funding will contribute towards the £3.2m project to transform the museum. So far £1,870 700 has been raised in total.

Councillor Dee Sinclair, city council board member for culture and communities, praised the fundraising efforts behind the scene, adding: "It is wonderful to see this project take off."

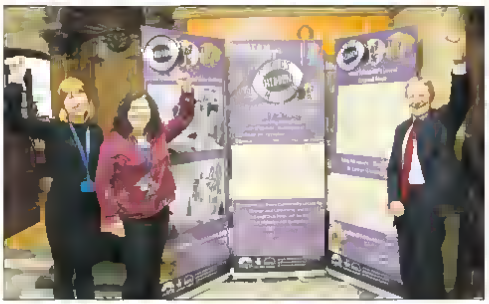
Under the redevelopment the Old Museum, which was partially closed in 2011, will triple in size and increase the number of exhibits from 200 to around 750.

The application for HLF funding was submitted in September 2015 in response to public demand for a larger space.

Michelle Roffe, head of HLF in the South East, said: "As the city's only museum dedicated to its people and history this project is vital to continuing to preserve and share the hidden histories of Oxford's community."

The Museum of Oxford's Development Trust is still fundraising towards its £450 000 contribution. So far £94,000 has been raised.

Visit tinyurl.com/y98q8g4 to contribute.



Council employees Kate Toomey, left, and Vanessa Lea, right, who both work on the project with city councillor Bob Price at the Museum of Oxford celebrating the donation

Digging deep in the woods for dinosaurs

OXFORD nursery children grabbed their trowels and slipped on their wellies for a dinosaur hunt of prehistoric proportions.

Children at Bright Horizons Jack Straws Lane Nursery and Preschool at the University of Oxford dug for hidden dinosaurs in the nearby woodland area.

Staff from the nursery organised the dig following the children's interest in the prehistoric creatures.

Using the tools provided, the children were encouraged to dig in the dirt for dinosaurs buried specifically for the activity.

Wearing high vis jackets and bright yellow hard hats children braved the wintery weather to dig up the dinosaurs.

They used water trays to clean the excavated dinosaurs, writing down the names of their exciting discoveries as they found them.

Children fully embraced the activity, drawing pictures of their favourite findings and sharing them with classmates.

Nursery manager Sue Aldridge said: "All of the children absolutely loved this activity and were particularly keen to draw and write about their dinosaur.

"Candy Floss, our health and safety mascot, was also on hand to make sure we were staying safe and using our tools safely."

It was smiles all round as youngsters including Joshua Bebbs dug through the dirt for their dinosaur discoveries

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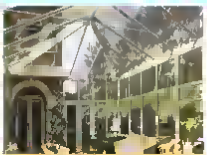

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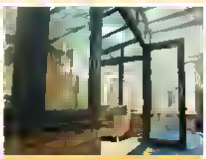

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Is that a quaffle I see before me?

THE finest seekers chasers and beaters flew into Oxford to take part in the Harry Potter inspired British Quidditch Cup

Last year's winners Velociraptors retained their title by beating Warwick 70-30 at Oxford Brookes University's Botley Campus on Sunday after catching the snitch to end the game.

Quidditch UK president Mel Piper said the cup was the "most competitive yet"

Jay Holmes who plays for the Velociraptors said "People see Raptors as a faceless machine but I think we've shown that we have the biggest heart."

Oxford hosted the first British Quidditch Cup in 2013 where just 16 teams competed.

Since then, the sport has grown in popularity to now have more than 800 players and 40 active teams in the UK.

The fifth annual competition on Sunday had 32 teams including Oxford Quidditch Club competing from across the country

There is also a Quidditch World Cup, to be held in Florence Italy, in June which will feature Team UK competing against other international sides in the style of the boy wizard and friends without the flying

Market traders going electric

A GOVERNMENT grant of nearly £200,000 will help prepare Covered Market traders go electric ahead of the world's first Zero Emission Zone from 2020

The money will be used to buy two electric light goods vehicles and three cargo bikes as well as the installation of three electric vehicle charging points for traders

Deliveries will also become greener and more efficient with a new all-hours storage space. Currently deliveries can only take place during the day when the market is open.

Oxford City Council leader Susan Brown said "We have been raising our concerns about Oxford city centre's toxic and illegal levels of air pollution for some time.

"It is vital for the health of those who live, work and visit the city that we tackle this issue – and we are delighted to have secured funding from government to help us do so."

The £192,500 of funding has come from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Air Quality Grant.

The money will also fund a study of the deliveries in and out of the Covered Market including the time, frequency and quantity of deliveries and the types of vehicles used.

The Covered Market is currently undergoing a £1.6m redevelopment over the next four years

The ZEZ, which is being jointly proposed by the city council and Oxfordshire County Council, would ban pollution-emitting vehicles from the city centre in phases from 2020

Force cuts put police dogs under threat

POLICE dogs could be axed as forces consider cuts to make savings

Up to 60 officers and their canine companions from the joint Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary dog section face severe cut backs as plans to make reductions are considered.

Six sergeants and 54 constables in the unit have at least one general purpose dog.

Some officers also have a second specially trained dog in areas such as explosive search, victim recovery and specialist search skills

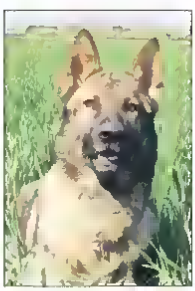
A spokesperson for Thames Valley Police said it was "not in any position to confirm any decision"

"The JOU Operations Management is engaging with dog section staff, stakeholders in the organisation and staff associations to review and develop a new model for the unit.

"In the Thames Valley we have more dog handlers and dogs than other equivalent forces and the Chief Constable Francis Habgood has stated a preference that any reductions be achieved on the basis of natural attrition, such as retirement or officer moving to another role within the force or service."

In February the chief constable also told the mounted section the force could not assure its long-term future.

An online petition to save the mounted section has reached more than 1,200 signatures since it was launched.



Police dog Ace enjoys a rest after thwarting a burglar Picture *Hants Police Dogs*

Velociraptors (in pink) retained their title. Pictures: Jessica Cornelius

A guide to Quidditch

- A match has two teams of seven players aiming to score as many points as they can
- Each player must play with a broom between their legs
- A team consists of one keeper three chasers two beaters and a seeker
- Points are available for throwing the quaffle through the opposing team s hoops and for catching the snitch which ends the game
- A Quidditch match uses three types of ball – the quaffle the snitch and bludgers – which are thrown at opposing players to knock them out of the game

Travellers leave park and ride site

TRAVELLERS who took up occupation of the Redbridge Park and Ride on March 10 have now left.

A possession order was granted to remove around 38 travellers' caravans on Monday after Oxford City Council began legal proceedings.

The council is now clearing the site of rubbish and expects it to be returned to normal as shortly.

Speaking before the order was granted, Councillor Alex Hollingsworth said: "The council has been working as fast as the court system will allow to bring this situation to a conclusion.

"It is extremely frustrating that despite having started legal proceedings as soon as the travellers moved onto Redbridge it has taken two weeks to get this far.

"I now look forward to the warrant for possession being served quickly so that this occupation can be ended."

The council remains in close communication with Thames Valley Police regarding the occupation with a view to returning the situation to normal.

Redbridge Park and Ride and the waiting room and toilet facilities remain open to the public and the bus services are operating normally.

Picture: TVP

Picture: SCAS

Four-mile tailback after lorry's salt spillage

ALL three southbound lanes on the M40 between Junctions 9 Bicester and 8 Oxford Services were closed for more than seven hours on Monday after a lorry overturned.

The contents of the lorry, 28.5 tonnes of rock salt, spilled on the carriageway at around 11am and the road remained closed until 6pm as recovery work was carried out.

Highways England said the closure caused four miles of queuing traffic.

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Crackdown on drugs scourge

By Owen Hughes

A JOINT taskforce has been set up in Oxford to crackdown on the city's "drugs scourge"

Oxford City Council and Thames Valley Police will launch the taskforce next month to "reclaim the streets" from the city's open drugs market.

The unit, based at St Aldate's police station, will comprise a dedicated problem solving post, police officer and two police community support officers.

The problem solving post is funded through a £45,000 investment from the Oxford Community Safety Partnership while Oxford City Council has invested £70,000 into the PCSOs.

Thames Valley Police will fund the dedicated officer using existing budgets.

The taskforce will give a better understanding of the drugs market in Oxford and more police will be on patrol in particular in drug hotspots.

City councillor Tom Hayes said: "People are now openly dealing and taking hard drugs in broad daylight and putting the safety of Oxford residents at risk by discarding used needles in the street.

"We will not tolerate this. We have hit back with high visibility patrols, with dozens of arrests and other legal measures, and by reclaiming the streets for Oxford residents.

"We have invested funding to pay for two new PCSOs to patrol Oxford's drug hotspots and, with Thames Valley Police, secured funding and set up this new taskforce to fight this drugs scourge – but also to protect vulnerable people from being exploited by organised crime groups in Oxford."

The number of discarded needles found in public places has increased in recent months with both local dealers and organised crime groups from other cities operating in Oxford.

Drug recovery service Turning Point supports the taskforce in its work to engage drug users in treatment.

Manager Andy Symons said the number of drug-related deaths in Oxford is "very concerning".

Between 2014 and 2016, there were 27 deaths related to drugs misuse in Oxford equating to 6.5 deaths for every 100,000 residents – above the average across England of 4.2.

Superintendent Joe Kidman welcomed the new taskforce as a "significant step forward," adding: "Drug dealers prey on and exploit some of the most vulnerable in our community – we do not want these people in our city."

Richard Venables, right, dressed as Noddy with Chris Wood at tha Oxford Town and Gown run in 2011

High Sheriff's big challenge

THE next High Sheriff of Oxfordshire said he will lead from the front as the intrepid runner prepares for a 100km ultra marathon along the Ridgeway in July.

Richard Venables, who will replace Jane Cranston as the county's High Sheriff next month, will take on the challenge as part of a series of sporting trials to raise money for two friends with Huntingdon's disease.

The 50-year-old will also run next month's London Marathon and ten 10km runs in different parts of Oxfordshire throughout the year.

Richard, who will take on the Dixons Carphone Race to the Stones on July 14, is raising money for the Huntingdon's Disease Association as two of his best friends from university, Chris and Mark Wood, are in the advanced stages of the disease and rely on 24 hour care.

When Richard takes over as High Sheriff he plans to launch a scheme to encourage teamwork and raise the profile of wellbeing in the workplace as well as improving sport and disability sport in deprived areas of Oxfordshire.

He said: "Exercise stimulates the brain, reduces stress and enhances health and productivity. Employers need to provide stimulating environments for their staff, show they care and lead by example."

Readers can get a discount for the run by visiting raretothestones.com and entering LOCAL10 when registering. Visit tinyurl.com/yav5wne9 to donate.

Under-pressure care home sold

OWNERS of a scandal-hit care home have sold it saying they felt the time was right as they were approaching retirement.

Winterbrook Nursing Home in Wallingford was the focus of a criminal investigation last year following reports of ill treatment and assaults by members of staff.

Three former members of staff were charged this month with ill treatment or wilful neglect and are due to appear at Oxford Magistrates Court on April 10.

Elizabeth Collins, 61 of Kynaston Road, Didcot, has been charged with three counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual and six counts of breaching a care provider's duty of care resulting in ill treatment/neglect of an individual.

Mary Craddock, 59 of Egerton Road, Wallingford, has been charged with five counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual.

Joan Lovell, 63 of St Leonard's Lane, Wallingford, has been charged with three counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual.

The directors said in a statement, "It has been a pleasure to own and operate this care home but it was felt the time was right to pass the business on to a new owner as we move closer to retirement."

Wallingford Care Ltd bought the home which was rated as 'requires improvement' in a Care Quality Commission report out on March 9.

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Family treated for toxic fumes

A FAMILY were rushed to hospital on Monday after inhaling toxic chemicals from a fish tank.

Police closed Hanney Road, Steventon, between St Michael's Way and Stonebridge Road shortly after 8.30pm on Monday and told residents to stay indoors and keep windows and doors shut.

Emergency crews from South Central Ambulance Service, Thames Valley Police and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue attended to the emergency involving hazardous materials.

A spokesperson for SCAS said: "We had three ambulance crews, our Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) and three ambulance officers on scene assessing and treating six patients. All those patients were assessed and treated at the scene and taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital for further treatment."

A Thames Valley Police spokesperson said the force attended "after a report a family had inhaled a chemical released from a fish tank".

Nichola Crook, who lives on Hanney Road, said: "We weren't told anything about what was going on. The police just told us to stay indoors and that we were not in any danger.

"I went next door to make sure my neighbour was alright and make her a cup of tea because she's a bit older and worried about all the flashing lights."

Another resident said police told people in the cordoned off area to keep their windows and doors closed.

MPs promote the county as tourist season begins

By George Welch

OXFORDSHIRE MPs welcomed visitors from as far as China last week to help promote the county as it prepares for the main tourist season.

Set up by management organisation Experience Oxfordshire as part of English Tourism Week, four of the county's six representatives visited businesses to see improvements being made to welcome visitors.

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis welcomed a group of 120 Chinese tourists to Broughton Castle.

In Oxford, Anneliese Dodds (Oxford East, Labour) assisted staff at the visitor information centre on Broad Street while Layla Moran (Oxford West and Abingdon, Lib Dem) welcomed rail passengers at Oxford Station.

In south Oxfordshire, John Howell (Henley Conservative) greeted visitors to the River and Rowing museum in the town before heading to nearby Stonor Park to see the new visitor centre which opened on Saturday.

Wantage MP Ed Vaizey (Conservative) and fellow Tory Robert Courts (Witney) were not involved.

Experience Oxfordshire has also produced a Welcome to Oxford and Oxfordshire video which will be broadcast on Oxford Bus Company's Park and Ride services.

Commenting on the improvements to the visitor welcome in Oxford, Ms Moran said: "The tourism industry is crucial to Oxford, Abingdon and the whole county and it is great to be celebrating English Tourism Week.

"Visitors can be assured of a warm Oxfordshire welcome when they arrive."

Oxfordshire welcomes 27.6 million visitors every year with the sector employing one in 10 jobs in Oxfordshire and has an overall value of £2.04 billion.

Layla Moran MP (in red) with Andrew Morison and Wendy Bradley from Oxford Bus Company and Experience Oxfordshire's Martin Walker

Victoria Prentis MP with Experience Oxfordshire's Frank Smith and visitors from China

John Howell MP, right, with David Worthington, director of Henley River and Rowing Museum

InBrief

Woman dies after truck collision

A WOMAN died after a truck blew its tyre and collided with her car.

The Scania Topline truck and Mazda CX-5 collided on the A420 between the A338 Frilford roundabout and the Tubney turn off in south Oxfordshire at 2.15pm on Thursday last week.

The Mazda driver, a 51 year-old woman from Buckingham, died at the scene.

The lorry driver had minor injuries but did not need hospital treatment.

Police are now appealing for witnesses, with the collision happening at a busy time of day.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 617 22/03/2018 with information.

Link road open

VINTAGE vehicles, a 'driverless' car, a hydrogen powered vehicle and electric bicycles were the first to travel down a new route in south Oxfordshire.

The £11.65m Harwell link road opened to motorists yesterday.

It connects the B4493 to the A417 and provides a more direct route from housing developments west of Didcot to the Harwell Campus.

Construction started in December 2016 and the link road has been delivered both on schedule and to budget.

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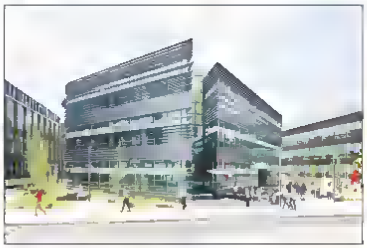


Big Data Institute, Old Road Martina Ferrara

Hubert Perrodo Building St Peter's College Richard James

The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College: Nick Kana

Architects have designs on awards

By George Welch

A QUINTET of Oxford buildings have been shortlisted for an award celebrating architectural excellence.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) last week named the 12 buildings chosen for its South Awards 2018.

Making up nearly half the shortlist, Oxford creativity led the way with more entries than any other county.

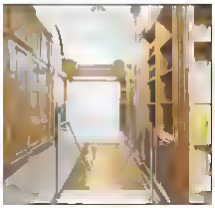
The nominated Oxford buildings are the Big Data Institute, in Old Road, The College Hub, Kellog College; the Hubert Perrodo Building, St Peter's College; the New Library, The Queen's College; and The Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College.

RIBA regional director James Robinson said: "We have a very strong shortlist of buildings for the RIBA Regional Awards in the south and south east this year. The standard and variety of the entries is high, from private houses to the larger public and institutional buildings.

"The shortlist also demonstrates the fantastic amount of design talent in the region in practices both large and small, local and working nationally or indeed, internationally.

"The region has an amazing architectural heritage with buildings that have the capacity to amaze, inspire and improve our quality of life."

Competition in the Oxford buildings comes from seven entries across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire.



Left, the new library, The Queen's College: Jim Stephenson and above, The College Hub, Kellog College: Tim Crocker

All shortlisted buildings will be assessed by a regional jury with the winning buildings announced at the awards evening at Mercedes-Benz World in Surrey on May 17.

Winners will be considered for the national awards, the results of which will be announced in June. The shortlist for the Stirling Prize for the best building of the year will then be drawn from the national award-winning buildings later in the year.

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Diabetes patients given Flash help

A NEW potentially life changing technology for many people with diabetes is available in Oxfordshire.

Flash Glucose Monitoring, which helps blood sugar recording, can now be prescribed for free on the NHS across the county.

Health provider Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group made the approval, but those prescribed Flash will have to attend education courses on how to use it before they can get free prescriptions.

Flash uses a small sensor that people wear on their skin. It records blood sugar levels continuously and can be read by scanning the sensor whenever needed.

The device can help with better control of the condition and, in turn, reduce the risk of serious diabetes-related complications.

Appeal denied

AN Oxford University student spared jail for stabbing her boyfriend has been denied permission to appeal her sentence.

Laviana Woodward, 24, of Milan, Italy pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding at Christ Church college during a drug fuelled attack in December 2016.

She was handed a 10-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months last September.

A judge at the Court of Appeal denied her permission this week.

Celebrating our wildlife

AWARD-WINNING images of the nation's flora and fauna have arrived for a special exhibition at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock.

Showcasing the winners and runners-up from the 2017 British Wildlife Photography Awards (BWPA) the exhibition celebrates the talents of amateur and professional photographers and highlights the diversity of the country's natural history.

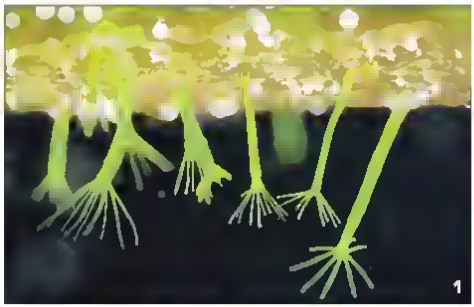
Striking images of bird life, mammals and marine habitats are on display alongside floral habitats and mystical woodland scenes.

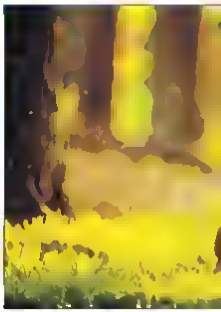
Lorraine Horne, audience development officer at the museum, said: "The BWPA aims to raise awareness about British biodiversity and habitats and encourage all ages to discover, explore and help conserve our heritage.

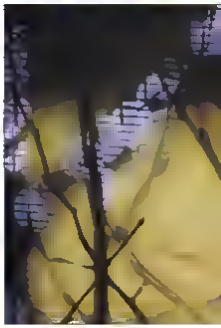
"This exhibition captures the imagination of photographers from all over the UK, with incredible images which showcase British wildlife at it's very best."

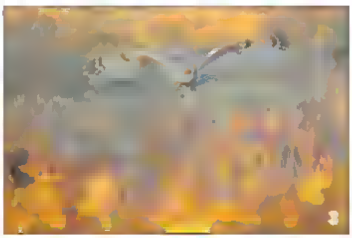
The exhibition will be on show at the Park Street museum until April 29.

Visit tinyurl.com/ybfnejy4 for more information.









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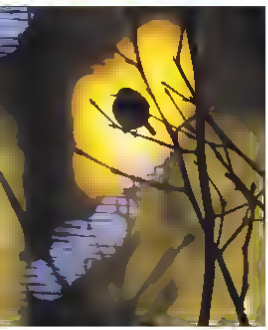
Category winners: 1. Alex Hyda (Hidden Britain) 2. Andrew Parkinson (Animal behaviour) 3. Matthew Roseveare (Wild pix 12-18yrs) 4. Francis Taylor (Wild Woods) 5. Daniel Trim (Urban Wildlife)



House prices rise 13 times salary

By Owen Hughes

HOUSE prices in Oxfordshire have skyrocketed to 13 times the average income.

The average house price in Oxfordshire has risen to £393,853 after a 6.7 per cent price increase from 2016 to 2017 compared to a 3.5 per cent increase in London over the past two years.

According to a report by the National Housing Federation published on Wednesday last week, Oxfordshire house buyers will need an income three times the average annual earnings to acquire an 80 per cent mortgage.

In Oxford, average house prices exceed £401,000, meaning the income required for an 80 per cent mortgage is £112,314 – nearly four times the city's mean annual earnings of £30,243.

Cherwell is the most affordable district to buy a home with an average house price of just over £330,000 but an income required for the same 80 per cent mortgage is still more than double the mean annual salary in the region of £29,780.

Prospective buyers in South Oxfordshire (£487,582) Vale of White Horse (£383,883) and West Oxfordshire (£369,448) would also need an income at least double the average earnings.

Housing associations in the South East built or started 14,705 homes in 2016/17 of which a third were for affordable home ownership.

The largest housing association in the county, Soha Housing, attributes the reason for the "growing crisis" to a large shortfall of new housing.

Chief executive Richard Peacock said: "Housing is completely unaffordable for too many people in Oxfordshire.

"It's great to hear that there will be more money from the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

"But we desperately need more social rented housing in this area – and we need it now.

"Soha is doing its bit, with 450 new homes from 2017-19, but we'd love to be doing more."

Soha contributed 170 new builds across Oxfordshire between 2016 and 2017.

Less than 30 per cent of housing benefit claimants in the county are in employment, while 2.8 per cent of Oxfordshire residents are unemployed.

The unemployment rate in the whole of the south east region is 3.3 per cent according to the latest Labour Market Statistics released by the Office for National Statistics.

MP's backing for epileptic boy, six, to use cannabis

OXFORD West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran has thrown her support behind a campaign calling for a six-year-old boy with epilepsy to be granted a special licence to use medical cannabis.

Alfie Dingley from Warwickshire suffers from a rare condition and needs cannabis oil to help reduce his seizures.

His parents, Drew Dingley and Hannah Deacon, want the government to let him use the medication, a banned substance in the UK.

They met Prime Minister Theresa May and other ministers last week and handed a 380,000-strong petition to Downing Street.

Ms Moran praised the family's 'bravery and courage' saying it was a 'real honour' to meet them.

She added: "I believe that the majority of MPs and the public want to see the medicinal cannabis granted for Alfie to use in the UK.

"It is disgraceful that the family are having to fight this in the first place.

"The government's refusal to consider allowing the prescription of cannabis products for medicinal purposes is criminalising people who simply need to alleviate chronic pain."

As well as meeting Alfie's family, Ms Moran is a co-sponsor of the Legalisation of Cannabis (Medicinal Purposes) Bill, due to be debated on July 6.

At a pre-cannabis demonstration last year Ms Moran admitted smoking the drug at university.

Layla Moran MP gave her support to Alfie's mother Hannah Deacon after signing a letter to the PM

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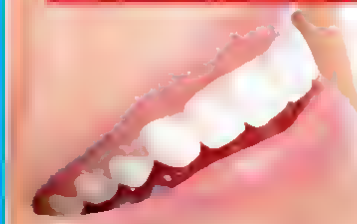

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Oxford helps to develop China's green transport

By George Welch

BACKERS of a brand new 'future city' in China have turned to Oxfordshire for innovative ideas about green transport.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth will join a UK government funded delegation of politicians and urban development experts heading to China on a knowledge sharing mission.

Green projects across Oxfordshire include testing driverless cars on county roads, the proposed 'zero emissions zone' in Oxford and Didcot Garden Town.

This has proven an inspiration for a new city called Xiong'an, near Beijing, which was announced in April last year.

Initially it will cover roughly 100sq km – the size of Paris – and will later expand to 200sq km – 67sq km smaller than Birmingham.

Eventually it will cover 2,000sq km – three times the size of New York – and home a population of between two and two and a half million people.

In comparison Oxford has a population of 150,000 according to the 2011 census.

Oxfordshire is one of four localities looking for ways to meet rising demand for transport and solve the growing problems of congestion and air pollution.

Cllr Hudspeth said. "We all know that Oxfordshire is a technology hotspot with its fair share of transport challenges which make it a good place to try to solve the problems of congestion and air pollution.

"This is an opportunity to share what we have learnt, and building relationships in China that could lead to fresh ideas and investment."

As part of the project around 30 students from leading Chinese universities are expected to work on a transport related project for Oxfordshire.

Cllr Hudspeth said this would bring 'some immediate benefit to the county'.

The vision is to build Xiong'an, 100km from Beijing, into a world class green and smart city with hi-tech industries and more efficient transport. It is also intended to take the pressure off the growing Chinese capital.

Dr Samuel Chen, who arranged the trip and is from the Oxford Programme for the Future, which re-thinks city development, said. "I am sure the leaders of Xiong'an will be able to learn a lot from Oxfordshire's experience in green transport."

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth and Dr Samuel Chen from the Oxford Programme for the Future

Better rail capacity essential

INCREASED rail capacity between Oxford and Didcot should be treated as a priority if the economy – both locally and nationally – is to prosper.

England's Economic Heartland (EEH) – a partnership of local authorities from Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire Hertfordshire and Swindon – has written to the Department for Transport demanding the rail link be improved.

Heather Smith, the partnership's strategic transport forum chairman, said in a document: "There should be explicit recognition of the need to develop the role of Oxford as a rail hub to be realised.

"The need to address the capacity constraints on the Didcot to Oxford section of the network have already been identified – not just to the benefit of the Heartland economy but also the wider UK economy."

The government has launched a consultation on how the Great Western rail network could be improved from April 2020.

EEH said delivery of East West Rail, which will span from Oxford to Cambridge, via Milton Keynes is a 'catalyst' for a review into whether the current rail franchise map is fit for purpose.

Yvonne Constance, responsible for the environment and economy at Oxfordshire County Council, said. "Improving rail links within Oxfordshire and across the wider region is absolutely crucial to achieving our economic ambitions.

"The service between Oxford and Didcot is a hugely important part of the network.

"Providing more capacity and a better experience for passengers should now be addressed as a priority."

Helicopters join motorcyclist search

HELICOPTER teams are aiding police investigations into the mystery of a missing motorcyclist.

Police were called to the River Thames in Abingdon at 10.10pm on Sunday following reports of a motorbike crashing into the river.

The motorcycle was recovered from the river but officers were unsure if the rider had crashed into the Thames on the bike.

Sections of Saxton Road and Preston Road were briefly closed as emergency vehicles searched the area.

A spokesperson for Thames Valley Police said on Twitter: "We are working to establish whether anyone entered the river with the motorcycle.

"Our primary concern is for the welfare of anyone who may have entered the water."

Anyone with information or who saw anything suspicious near the river on Sunday evening should call the police enquiry centre on 101.

Delivering cleaner air though hydrogen hub

A GREEN initiative designed to drive investment in hydrogen and fuel cell projects has been launched.

The Oxfordshire Hydrogen Hub launched last week at the Said Business School.

As Oxford plans to introduce the UK's first zero emission zone in 2020 hydrogen and fuel cell technologies will be important in decarbonising energy across the county.

It is hoped the initiative will deliver cleaner air through the development of new transport technologies.

Susan Halliwell, director for planning and place at the Oxfordshire County Council, said. "OCC is committed to supporting the development of a low carbon future across the county.

"Hydrogen technologies have a key role to play in realising this future, providing a pathway to cost effective clean energy."

Hydrogen Hubs are a new initiative that brug together stakeholders and the hydrogen and fuel cell industry to develop projects that will deploy technology in a way that meets energy needs of the community.

More than 100 stakeholders attended the launch event last week.

Two hydrogen vehicles a Toyota Mirai pictured, and Hyundai ix35 fuel cell, were displayed in front of the Oxford University building.

The Hydrogen Hub launched in Swindon in January 2016 and has since driven more than £1.5million of investment in hydrogen and fuel cell projects in Wiltshire.

Improved safety for A34 given go ahead

PROPOSED improvements to the A34 moved a step closer last week after the government approved the safety measures.

Highways England was tasked with delivering recommendations and work is now under way to progress what will be done and when up to 2020.

Recommendations include improvements in the size and layout of layboys, slip roads and signage.

The Department for Transport will make a formal announcement in the coming weeks.

Wantage MP Ed Vaizey said "I am pleased that the recommendations in the A34 Safety Review are being carried forward and that the Department for Transport has accepted that the A34 needs improvement.

"I hope Highways England can implement the recommendations as speedily as possible and will continue to work with stakeholders to put pressure on the government to continue to improve the A34."

The proposals follow pressure from campaigners and local MPs, after a number of deaths and crashes on the busy road.

Roads minister Jesse Norman confirmed on Tuesday last week that development work had been authorised.

Newbury MP Richard Benyon, who has lobbied alongside Mr Vaizey, said the wait has been frustrating but that getting the safety review done is "a major step forward".

He added. "Frustrating though it seems, I accept that it is important that any works are properly scrutinised for value for money and more importantly for effectiveness. I want to see these improvements in place as much as anyone else."

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Passengers happy with buses

SATISFACTION with Stagecoach in Oxfordshire bus services has risen two per cent to 91 per cent, according to watchdog Transport Focus

The independent research showed year-on-year increase in approval levels across all categories since 2015

This includes safe driving, with scores moving up to 88 per cent, and value for money which increased to 67 per cent from the previous year

Passengers were also more satisfied with punctuality from the previous study up four per cent to 75 per cent

Managing director Martin Sutton said the 'fantastic' results were an endorsement of his hard working employees He added "Oxfordshire has endured a series of roadworks over the last year while congestion continues to be an issue

"We re delighted our customers remain loyal and continue to feel satisfied with our services despite the challenge we've faced in the city over the past 12 months "

Meanwhile, Oxford Bus Company received a similar 89 per cent satisfaction overall, while its Park and Ride service ranked at 93 per cent.

The Oxford Bus Company was rated as similar for value for money (65 per cent) compared to Stagecoach Oxfordshire (67 per cent) although the Park and Ride was much higher on 75 per cent.

Search for talented engineers

THE search has started for the most outstanding young engineers in Oxfordshire.

Teachers and employers across the county are asked to nominate the best and most improved young students and apprentices for the High Sherriff of Oxfordshire's Young Engineer Awards

Since 2009 the awards have been celebrating the talent of Oxfordshire s young people and recognising the technical skills and achievements in the county's schools, colleges and workplaces

Award entries are now open in the Best Student and Most Improved Student categories for age ranges 14 16 years and 16-18 years, as well as Best Apprentice for 16-18 years.

Winners will receive awards and prizes of tablet computers from the High Sherriff, Jane Cranston, at an awards ceremony at Lucy Electric in Thame on June 27

Mrs Cranston encouraged nominations saying: "These awards recognise the next generation of creative thinkers and innovative problem-solvers and I hope they will inspire many more individuals to follow a successful engineering career

"The judge will be looking for individuals who have shown exceptional progress or an outstanding application of engineering skill and achievement to either study or workplace projects "

Visit youngengineerawards.co.uk to nominate before April 20.

Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Swapping chocolate for chicks to help children

By George Welch

WHO needs chocolate when you can celebrate Easter with some very special fluffy friends instead?

Terminally ill children staying at Helen & Douglas House can often not eat Easter eggs due to swallowing or digestive problems.

So instead of filling up with E numbers children staying at the East Oxford hospice will enjoy the calming tones of tweeting chicks in what will be quite different Easter celebrations

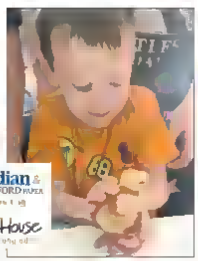
Eight eggs housed in an incubator will hatch at Helen & Douglas House with the hatchlings expected to keep the youngsters company for 16 days.

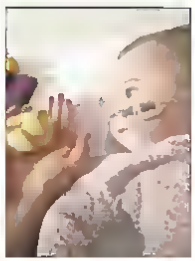
The children will watch them hatch and have the opportunity to hold them.

One-year-old Ella, who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a rare neuromuscular disorder characterised by progressive muscle wasting, spent last Easter at the Churchill Hospital-based hospice

Older brother Aydan made Easter decorations and was fascinated by the chicks while Ella stretched out in a Silver Cross pushchair with the little cheeps from the baby chicks in the background.

Dad Jack described the family's time at Helen & Douglas House as a 'calm and beautiful safe haven





Aydan and his sister Ella anjoying tha chicks last year

He added "After being admitted as Ella was unwell, the peace and tranquility was exactly what we all needed.

"In the most difficult times the staff are there. he it sitting at your child s bedside while you shower, making sure you eat a meal while you stay in house or being at the end of the phone in the middle of the night.

"Through the whole process of having a terminally ill child they are there for the whole family

"Nothing makes the situation okay but having the support of Helen & Douglas House feels like a weight has been lifted."

Gemma Radnor, a play specialist at the hospice, said. "The children love watching the chicks hatch, as do the staff and families, and once eggs start to crack people can t keep away"

Amale Arumaha, a Cotswolds-based charity which educates people about exotic animals, will also bring a special collection of weird and wonderful creatures.

When they visited last month they took a meerkat, hedgehogs rabbits, a skunk and tarantulas

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Josie Barcial, far right, with The Prince of Wales and fellow nurses at the reception at Buckingham Palace

Nurse's delight at meeting 'the future king'

A 'MUCH LOVED' care worker rubbed shoulders with royalty at a celebration of all things nursing.

Josie Barcial was invited to Buckingham Palace for a reception hosted by The Prince of Wales following a surprise nomination by her employer

The deputy manager of Sanctuary Care's Watlington branch met Prince Charles at the event earlier this month that recognised the contribution of frontline nurses.

Josie, who lives in the town with her two daughters, said she was well behaved and adhered to regal etiquette

"I curtsied and he extended his hand, asking me what it was like working in a nursing home -I replied that it is very rewarding your highness " she said.

"I felt so special, imagine the future King of England just in front of you, speaking like ordinary people "

Josie, nominated for her 'significant' contribution to nursing, moved to England after working as a nurse in the Philippines and Los Angeles She began work at the Hill Road home in 2004 and has been there since.

The 55-year-old said it was always a dream of hers to visit Buckingham Palace.

"Now I have been inside, it s like a dream come true," she said.

Sheila O Connor, director of operations at Sanctuary Care, said the team were 'over the moon at Josie's achievement.

She added. "We are honoured that she was there, as a representative of Sanctuary Care and all of the wonderful nurses we have caring for our residents "

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Plenty to get you eggcited

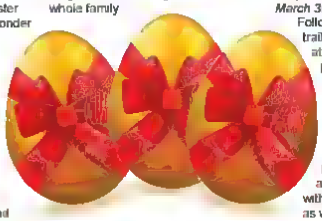
Eggstraordinary Easter Fun
Oxford Castle Unlocked
March 30 – April 1
Have a go at being a master chocolatier Ice and decorate your own egg in the castle's Key Learning Centre where lots of other Easter fun will be on offer

Big Easter Bunny Hunt
Waterperry near Wheatley
March 24 – April 15
Join the Big Easter Bunny Hunt around the ornamental gardens Find them all and claim a special Easter prize £2 per child – children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies

Easter Trail
Stonor Park Henley
March 24 – April 15
Family fun as children discover and unravel the clues in the Easter Trail in the gardens park and wonder woods.

Easter weakand of eggsploration
March 3 – April 2
Blenheim Palace
Follow an over sized Easter Egg Hunt throughout the parkland and gardens with 8ft giant decorated eggs to find Explore the grounds to seek out the special Blenheim Egg note its location on your map and enter a competition to win an Easter surprise

The Pleasure Gardens will transform into an Easter wonderland with lots of interactive experiences family-friendly activities and shows to enjoy Find a traditional Victorian fairground with vintage rides for the whole family



Embark on an Easter bunny walkabout or frolic with the fairy stilt walkers plus have a go at Archery and gel jumping on the bouncy castle or trampolines!

Eastar Trail
Greys Court, Henley
March 30 - April 2
Follow the clues on the Easter trail and enjoy a chocolate treat at the end Costs £3 plus property admission

Eestar at Cogges Manar Farm
Witney
March 30 – April 13
Two weeks of wonderful Easter activities to keep all ages busy over the holidays with different activities each day as well as the Easter trail

March 30: The ever-popular Nick Cope returns to Cogges for two performances at 11am and 1pm.
March 31 & April 1 Easter trail and Meet the Animals handling sessions at 11am and 2pm.
April 2 Storytime at 10 30am 11am and 12pm. Hot cross buns made fresh in the manor house kitchen, 12pm to 2pm 'Meet the Animals' sessions at 11am and 2pm
April 3. Pond dipping 10am - 2pm
April 4: Cooking up an Easter treat in the manor house kitchen with chocolate egg decorating 10am - 2pm
April 5: Cogges crafty sessions - farmyard junkyard 10am - 2pm
April 6: Woodland Club's messy mud kitchen 10am - 2pm
April 9: Story time at 10 30am 11am and 12pm and Where the Wild Things Are sock puppets 10am - 2pm
April 10: Seedling Science drop-in sessions 10am – 2pm
April 11 Farmyard friends biscuit making in the manor house kitchen 10am – 2pm
April 12 Cogges crafty sessions – nature printing 10am - 2pm
April 13. Woodland Club's crazy clay faces 10am - 2pm

Fairytale Farm
Chipping Norton
March 30 – April 2
Explore the giant new-look rabbit burrow and meet the Easter bunny who will tell stories Every child will receive a full-size Easter egg
Solve the clues on the golden egg hunt on the Enchanted Walk Trail and win a prize
The farm is also running additional events all over the school holidays

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Recent data reveals the staggering potential wealth available to the UK's elderly homeowners

Property becomes an increasingly important component of your wealth as you age, and this has never been truer with low interest rates affecting savings and pensions underperforming.

Nevertheless, research by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) indicates that over 55 UK homeowners could be sitting on a goldmine with their accumulated property wealth calculated to total £2.5 trillion[1]. To place this figure in context, the UK's elderly homeowners could potentially access more wealth than the GDP of France (£2.4 trillion) according to the latest IMF projections[2]

However, the CML report also indicates that mortgage debt is rising fastest amongst older households, plus incomes traditionally drop in later life. The question is how can this asset wealth be used to benefit you?

Accessing a portion of the equity stored in your home now could provide you with a timely financial boost in later life. If you're a UK homeowner over the age of 55, you may be eligible for a Lifetime Mortgage that could see you access as little as £10,000 of the wealth in your property – a tiny fraction in light of the statistics above – which could help you clear any existing mortgage debts, and provide you with financial security and freedom in retirement.

A Lifetime Mortgage allows you to convert some of the value of your property into a tax-free cash sum - without having to give up ownership of your home. Lifetime Mortgage plans have no fixed-end date and come with no required monthly repayments, so the funds you release are yours to spend as you wish. The mortgage and accrued interest are not due for repayment until both you and your partner either pass away or both enter long-term care.

If you are concerned about the build-up of the loan value over time, plans are available that allow you to pay off up to 10pc of the mortgage balance each year without penalty. This can help offset the interest accrued and help to secure some of the property's wealth for your future use.

What's more, with plans from Equity Release Council approved lenders you will benefit from the safety of the no-negative equity guarantee, ensuring that you and your family will never owe more than the value of your home. Plans from approved lenders also allow you the option of moving to a suitable alternative property, subject to the lender's criteria.

On top of this, competitive rates of fixed interest are available, which allow you to get an accurate projection so you know exactly what is happening with your money at all times.

There's no need to face the golden years of retirement with the clouds of mortgage debt or limited incomes looming on the horizon. After years of responsible saving and hard work, your property could provide you with the financial boost to face the future with confidence, so you can have the retirement you deserve.

[1] *Source: Council of Mortgage Lenders - 'Later life borrowing, New mindsets, old solos' June 2017, p.23*
[2] *Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2017*

Could equity release help you? For more information call now and speak to Andy Pike at his Oxford Office - 01865 378718

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The advice from Andy Pike was both impartial and informed. It helped satisfy any concerns I had about the implications of equity release. I can recommend Responsible Equity Release to anyone. - **Julia Annand, 25th October 2017**

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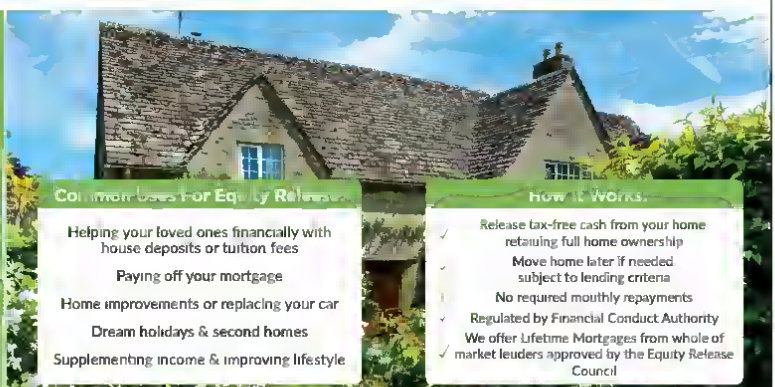

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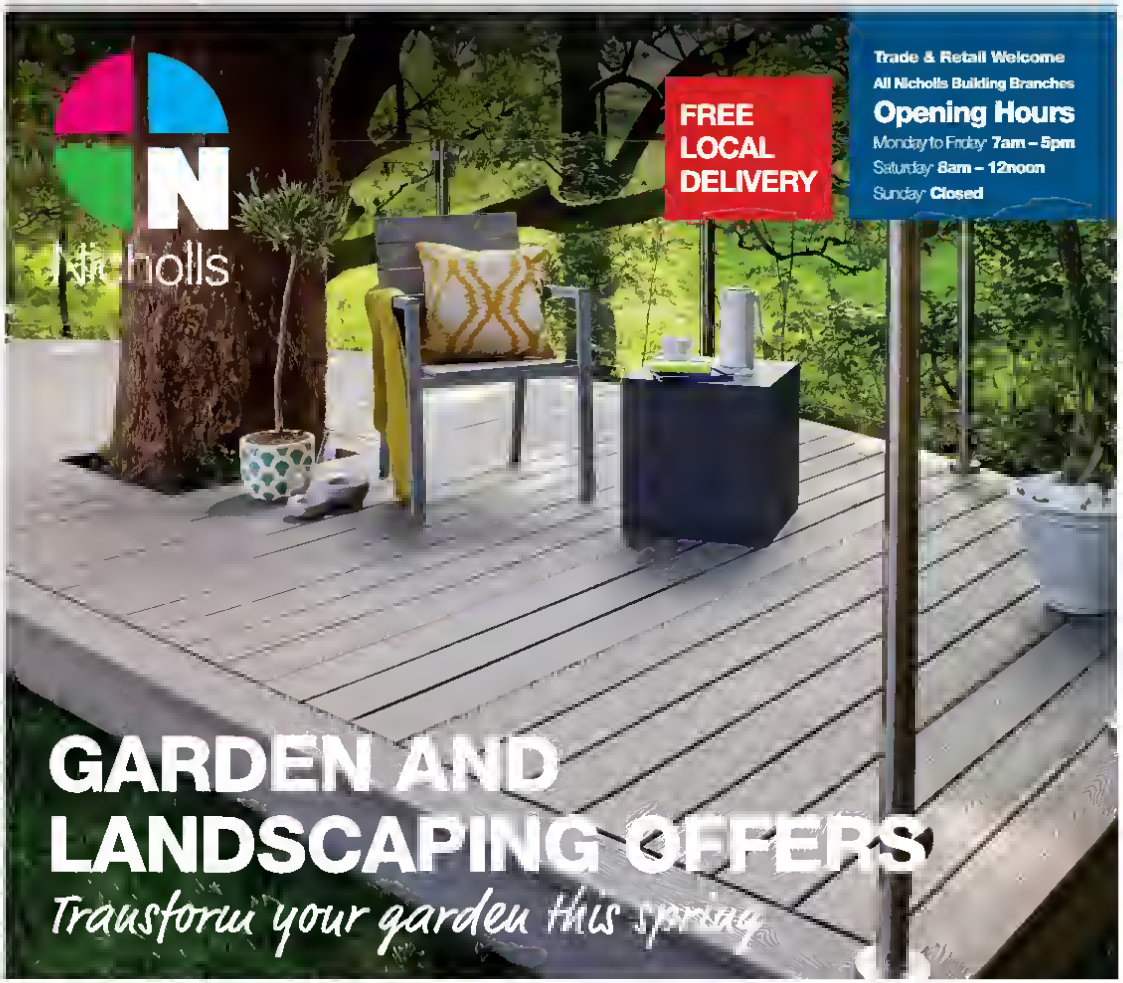

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Truly magical medicine

By Samantha McGregor

ROALD Dahl's story of a boy who creates magical potions to punish his bullying grandmother comes to Oxford this Easter

A "fantastical" stage adaptation of Roald Dahl's George's Marvellous Medicine will be staged at the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday April 10 to Saturday April 14

Most grandmothers are lovely kind helpful ladies Not George's grandmother

In fact, George Kranky's grandmother likes to gobble up slugs and bugs and is always telling George what to do

But one day when his parents leave him alone with the grizzly old grunion George takes his chance and sets about creating a brand new medicine to cure her of her cruelty

He uses a variety of household ingredients such as shampoo deodorant gin horseradish sauce engine oil floor polish paint and even anti-freeze to make his concoction.

Little does he know that his perilous potion will be the start of a rather marvellous adventure

Directed by Julia Thomas this imaginative and fun-filled production of the much-loved classic tale has been adapted by David Wood

Taking the role of the show's hero George is talented young actor

Preston Nyman, son of Andy Nyman the co-creator of Oliver nominated Ghost Stories and who played Winston Churchill in Peaky Blinders

Lisa Howard known for her recurring role as Grace Sheehen in Emmerdale will play the grizzly grandma.

Completing the cast is Catherine Morris who will play George's mum, Justin Wilman as his dad and Chandni Mistry as the chicken.

Roald Dahl's book was published in 1981 and an audio book was later released which was narrated by Richard E Grant.

Dahl once said had he not become a famous writer he would have loved to have been a doctor

This production is suitable for children from age five

Tickets for George's Marvellous Medicine at Oxford Playhouse start at £10 and are available from the box office on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com

The Shires come to Oxfordshire

THE UK's biggest country and American act The Shires completes the line-up for Towersey Festival

Acclaimed British country duo The Shires are the final headline act to be announced for the 54th Towersey Festival which takes place from August 24 to 27 at Thame Showground

Hailing from Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Ben Earle and Crissie Rhodes aka The Shires are the biggest selling UK country act of all time, and the first UK act to be honoured with a Country Music Association (CMA) Award.

The duo close Towersey Festival on Monday August 27 and join Richard Thompson Electric Trio on Friday The Proclaimers and Big Country who will headline Saturday and Beth Orton on Sunday

This year's line-up also features the Americana-tinged Wildwood Kin songwriter/ guitarist Blair Dunlop William The Conqueror and the bluegrass influenced Bella Gaffney and Polly Bolton.

Towersey Festival director Joe Heap said: "We're so pleased to finally announce The Shires as the last of our headline acts this year

"They're quite simply the biggest UK country/ Americana act there is, and they'll be making the August bank holiday Monday a day to remember."

With 11 venues alongside an extensive music programme the festival also features 24 hours of ceilidh, daily workshops spoken word, film screenings events and activities for children and younger festival-goers and more.

For more information or tickets go to towerseyfestival.com

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Quartet making folk funky

By Josh Cox

THE Urban Folk Quartet, one of the most exciting and vibrant bands on the UK acoustic/ roots scene are heading back out on the road for a series of shows that take them from intimate folk club settings into theatres and onto international festival stages

The band will be making an appearance at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall in Uffington on April 14

Founded in 2009 The UFQ have released six albums to date three studio and three live.

They've developed a unique global sound that though still rooted in both traditional songs and Celtic dance forms has grown to embrace Eastern European flourishes Middle Eastern melodies and rhythms associated with Afrobeat, north India and Cuba

American bluegrass funk and the occasional stray electric dance music references are also audible as tunes jigs reels and songs within their repertoire and can often spiral outwards into tightly rehearsed and improvised directions

Each of the band members are highly accomplished musicians in their own right, Joe Broughton plays the fiddle mandolin guitar Paloma Tingás plays fiddle with Tom Chapman on percussion and Dan Walsh taking up the banja and guitar

"It s always enjoyable seeing how the new stuff goes down how it interacts with the pieces around it and just generally taking it beyond the rehearsal room," says Tom one of the UK's most accomplished and best known cajón players

He added. "We're not afraid to swap things around night-by-night and give it a go It's a great feeling when you have a solid set list down and you feel like you know everything inside out but this phase of experimentation [we re currently in] is equally as exciting and I hope audiences get a sense of that "

Tickets cost £15 and the show starts at 7 30pm For more details or to purchase tickets visit www theufq rom

Conducting a little Alchymy at arts festival

The North Wall Arts Centre has recently announced the full line-up for its annual festival of new plays Alchymy which takes place from April 6 to 8.

Now in its second year Alchymy Festival is designed to showcase the skills of early-career theatre-makers.

The programme presents high-quality theatre alongside a wide range of industry events Many of the shows are rehearsed in-house at The North Wall prior to the festival.

Altogether 12 new plays will premiere at the festival this year alongside masterclasses and panel discussions

Most writers, directors and actors involved n the festival were trained at The North Wall on the organisation s renowned ArtsLab programme

The shows include three newly commissioned monologues written by Luke Barnes Sonya Hale and Jan Charleson.

The line-up eko includes the world premiere of climate-change play Rehearsing for Planet B by Forward Arena Theatre Company a new one-woman show about the nature of shame by Manka McKennell (ITCH) and I Promise Tomorrow I ll Forget Where I Buried It, a monologue by Hal Coase

The North Wall s director in residence, Emily Collins, will d rect Cheer Up Slug by Tamsin Daisy Rees.

The event will also feature appearances from significant names in the world of British theatre including artistic director of the Gate Theatre, Ellen McDougall, and former artistic director of the National Theatre of Scotland, Laurie Sansom.

Ellie Keel festival producer said "The first Alchymy Festival in 2017 showcased the amazing talent of the writers actors and directors who have worked with the organisation over the years

"This year we've increased the number of shows and events to present an even more exciting and varied programme for our audiences

"It is thrilling to be presenting the premiere of 12 new shows in one weekend – come along to see the very first performances of some incredible new plays."

Weekend passes range from £25 to £40 with tickets to individual plays starting from £5 To find out more information visit thenorthwall com

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Competition

WIN a visit to an "out of this world" golf experience

GRAVITEE

Alien planetary landing sites, black holes and space ships have all appeared next to the Kassam stadium as adventure golf goes interstellar

There is now a pair of new space-themed 18-hole golf courses in the first floor of the Ozone Leisure Complex in Blackbird Leys

Competitors have to negotiate their way around five zones, putting balls on a space deck, inside a spaceship, in outer space, on a Mars landing site and in an unknown, mysterious forest planet

It was one of the first space-themed adventure golf courses in the whole of the UK when it opened in February 17th, says Alistair Burnett, founder of the company Gravitee Golf.

He said, "People have done jungle, dinosaur and underwater themes but this is the first time anyone has tackled a 36-hole space adventure

"It involves an amazing UV room, plus crashed space ships, aliens, rockets, a black hole and a Red Planet scape for the space adventurers

"It's looking absolutely brilliant."

Mr Burnett said adventure golf is rising in popularity amongst people who want something different from the more-established leisure activities such as going to the pub, cinema or bowling alley

"If you are looking for something fun to do there's not always a whole lot of choice. We wanted to offer something that's a bit different to the norm, what ever your age."We welcome families with small children and grandparents or groups of friends for a stag-do or as part of a team building exercise with work colleagues.

We have party rooms and meeting spaces so people can come and play and then hang out afterwards."

Mr Burnett said adventure golf' differs from its seaside sibling 'mini golf' because it is themed and has a storyline, which adventurers can follow as they work their way around.

He added: "It really takes things to next level with so much more going on, it is really exciting."

For more information see www.graviteegolf.com

Win a family visit!

We have teamed up with Gravitee Golf to organise a round of golf for 5 people on both courses with 2 pizzas to share afterwards

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer the following simple question.

Q: Where is Gravitee Golf sited in Oxford?

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competitions@theoxfordpaper.co.uk

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Wednesday 28th March 8am – 5pm,
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Friday 30th March 10am – 4pm,
Saturday 31st March 10am – 5pm,
Sunday 1st April Closed,
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FENC NG FEATURE ADVERT SEMENT

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system

It s been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping, transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it s been more "celebrity mock out' than celebrity make-over as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I ve learnt quite a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from...a instructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality value, longevity aesthetic design thus fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view Colourfence is the Rolls Royce of fencing just without the exclusive price tag. What s more it s guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence once professionally installed – Colourfence really will stay up.

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It s also a losing battle. Wood simply want s to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood – plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Head into Winter - with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientifically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be efficiently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

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†Terms and conditions apply full details available on request

puzzle drome

Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE

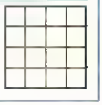
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the central grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and central grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

UNEVEN NUT, STONE ME!

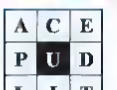


Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically

Quiz Challenge

1. **Joan of Arc was burned at the stake during the reign of which English king?**
2. **How is Anne Catherick referred to in a title of a 1859 novel by Wilkie Collins?**
3. **Adamstown is the capital of which British Overseas Territory in the Pacific Ocean?**
4. **The Greenwich Meridian passes through the UK, France and which other European country?**
5. **Who, when he won the F1 World Championship in 1992, recorded just one victory during the season?**
6. **What S is a writ ordering a person to attend a court?**
7. **Which book by JK Rowling is set in the fictional town of Pagford?**
8. **Tufted, horned and Atlantic are species of which seabird in the auk family?**
9. **Singer Niall Horan caddied for which golfer at the annual Par 3 contest immediately prior to the 2015 US Masters Tournament?**
10. **Which actress played Margaret Thatcher in the 2011 film The Iron Lady?**

NONAGRAM



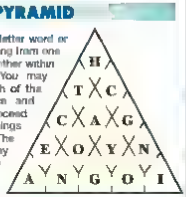
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
26 Good, 31 Very Good, 36 Excellent.

Any word found in first Collins Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated and/or contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang terms; varied spellings of first letter word (others another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber



FIVE ALIVE

JO	LU	ID	CE	RY
UC		SO		AI
HM	UA	IS	RI	SC
PR		NU		EH
SE	DL	EG	PE	TS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

SUDOKU

Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

						5	7	
4			5	9				
			3		1	2		6
				3	2	8	5	7
	8			1	5	9		4
2		7					6	3
	9	1			3			5
						6	9	
	2		8	6				

3		7	9				6	5
	2			4	1			
						3		
4				2		5		7
						9	4	1
	8							
		5			7			
				3			5	
9	3		6		8			

EQUALISER

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to www.puzzledrome.com

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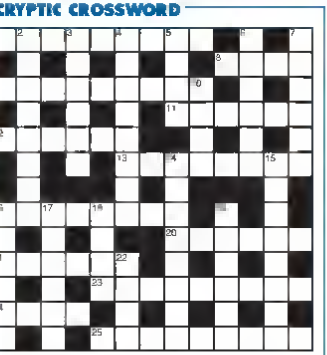
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Type of bread for a full breakfast? (9)
9 She followed Elsa to the throne (4)
10 Apt Berlin characters worth putting in the newspaper (3)
11 Hesitant reply to question as to whose fur it is? (6)
12 Note, new tune is needed for the dance (6)
13 What the drug addict did gave a new life (6)
16 Beset by stress, I had a car crash (6)
20 Young child mashed pea in the drink container (6)
21 Support the Spanish drive forward (6)
23 One not in agreement suffering bear abnormal tiredness (8)
24 Come up against an objection (4)
25 Where the Spanish drive forward (6)
26 We are at one in this (5)

DOWN

2 Shocking if rich or refined (8)
3 Pauline oddly loses a place in row (4-2)
4 The interval is not a generous period (6)
5 Fit bachelor getting in the beer (4)
6 Engineer in in the way to appease (6)
7 New Delhi, after Sunday, gets protection (6)
8 Bird found in northern Europe (4)
14 To abandon aeroplane is not out of order (8)
15 Interpreter was an first page of old books (6)
16 It would seem to be a soft fruit (6)
17 What the farmer likes to see happen casually (4,2)
18 Two-way transfer (4)
19 Frenchman keep an antelope in large bottle (6)
22 Foreigner without a legal right (4)

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Nearly-mads (3,3,3)
9 Shallow lake (6)
10 Aspersion (4)
11 Warmth (4)
12 Quite modern (6)
13 Largest ocean (7)
19 Waterless (4)
17 Unconscious state (4)
18 Hairstyle (3)
20 Month (3)
21 Amphibian (4)
23 Long wailing cry (4)
25 Verbatim (7)
26 Angel (6)
29 Twinge (4)
30 Create (4)
31 Forest officer (6)
32 Dining-hall (8)

DOWN

2 Arctic seabird (6)
3 Intensely passionate (6)
4 Onomatopoeic (6)
5 Flair (4)
6 Magnate (anag.) (7)
7 Asian desert (4)
8 Alert (2,3,4)
13 Fortune-telling (9)
14 Large town (4)
15 Beer material (5)
16 Lout (4)
18 Plug (7)
22 Doll (6)
23 Head protection (6)
24 Pedestrian (6)
27 Chime (4)
28 Swift animal (4)

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 Henry VI; 2 The Woman in White; 3 Pitcairn Islands; 4 Spain; 5 Nigel Mansell; 6 Subpoena; 7 The Casual Vacancy; 8 Puffin; 9 Rory McIlroy; 10 Meryl Streep.

CHESS CODE

T	A	Z	R	J	L	F	W	O	S	H	G	M	
19	1	26	18	10	12	6	23	15	19	8	7	13	
U	B	Y	N	I	V	K	D	C	P	X	T	Q	
21	2	25	14	9	22	11	4	3	16	24	20	17	

EASY SUDOKU

8	3	4	2	9	7	1	5	6
2	5	9	4	8	1	3	6	7
7	6	1	3	5	9	4	8	2
1	4	2	9	7	5	8	3	6
3	9	8	6	4	2	5	7	1
6	7	5	8	1	3	2	9	4
4	8	3	5	2	6	7	1	9
9	1	6	7	3	4	9	2	5
5	2	7	1	6	8	9	4	3

HARD SUDOKU

8	1	3	7	9	4	2	6	5
6	7	5	2	8	3	4	1	9
4	2	9	6	5	1	3	7	8
5	8	4	1	3	2	9	5	7
9	3	2	5	7	6	8	4	1
1	6	7	9	4	8	5	3	2
2	9	1	4	6	5	7	8	3
3	5	8	8	2	7	1	9	4
7	4	6	3	1	9	6	2	5

MAGIC SQUARE: UNEVEN NUT, STONE ME!

NEUT	NUTS	TUNE	ONES

WORD PYRAMID
Cleanse-Spring water
Cleanse from sin
Sin - naughty
Naughty - devilish, sinful
Sinful - sad
Sad - miserable

EQUALISER

3		9		
4	×	3	÷	2
3		3		
4	×	3	−	5
3		3		

QUICK CROSSWORD:
Down – 2 Fulmar; 3 Tweed; 4 Interval; 5 Beer; 6 Engineer; 7 Delhi; 8 Oslo; 14 Sail; 15 Timber; 16 Drive; 17 Cause; 18 Peg; 22 Doll; 23 Helmet; 24 Pedestrian; 27 Ring; 28 Hare.
Across – 1 Wholemeal; 9 Lake; 10 Ann; 11 Doubt; 12 Modern; 13 Pacific; 19 Arid; 17 Coma; 18 Style; 20 May; 21 Toad; 23 Howl; 25 Literally; 26 Seven; 29 Pang; 30 Make; 31 Ranger; 32 Refectory.

NONAGRAM:
Seven – Acey, Adieu, Ayes, Yards, Yeses
Eight – Adieus, Ayesha, Sayers, Shades
Nine – Dietary, Dreary, Eyases

FIVE ALIVE:
(1) Across – Jocund, Lucid, Hmmm, Prune, Sedge
(2) Across – Cedar, Hairy, Ehlers, Nudge, Tsetse

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:
Across – 1 Wholemeal, 9 Lake, 10 Ann, 11 Doubt, 12 Modern, 13 Pacific, 19 Arid, 17 Coma, 18 Style, 20 May, 21 Toad, 23 Howl, 25 Literally, 26 Seven, 29 Pang, 30 Make, 31 Ranger, 32 Refectory.
Down – 2 Fulmar, 3 Tweed, 4 Interval, 5 Beer, 6 Engineer, 7 Delhi, 8 Oslo, 14 Sail, 15 Timber, 16 Drive, 17 Cause, 18 Peg, 22 Doll, 23 Helmet, 24 Pedestrian, 27 Ring, 28 Hare.

An Eggcellent Easter

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KIDS - 0-4 yrs FREE, 5-15 yrs £1!

30 Mar to 2 April Enjoy a leisurely heritage train ride along the Chiltern foothills. Sit back, relax and enjoy the lovely scenery, see the steam drift past your window and watch out for the Red Kites whirling overhead. Steam-hauled trains depart Chinnor at 11.00, 12.15, 13.30, 15.00 and 16.30. Fares: Adult 16-59yrs £12, Senior 60+yrs £10, Child 5-15yrs £1, 0-4 yrs Free. *See website for all details. Free car parking, tea room and souvenir shop at Chinnor station.*

Looking Further Ahead & *Diary Dates*

14 April - *Fish & Chip Quiz Night*, brain teasing fun & bar onboard
05 to 07 May - *Teddy Bear Days*, 5-15yrs with Teddy ride FREE
12 May - *Murder Mystery Night**, Fish & Chip Supper, new lower price
20 May - *Senior Specials*, 60+ yrs travel for just £5
26 May - *History & Nature Ride*, Railcar, 5-15yrs just £1
27 to 28 May - *Steaming on Tank Holiday*, 5-15yrs just £1.

Note: All dates with steam except 05 & 26 May. Under 5 yrs travel Free.
**Advance booking required.*

www.chinnorrailway.co.uk

To advertise call us on 01235 511700

Advertorial

'AutoScience' fun at the British Motor Museum this Easter!

Visitors are invited to join in with some cracking' fun activities this Easter at the British Motor Museum. Starting with a traditional Egg hunt over Easter weekend, followed by two weeks of AutoScience' where the science that drives our cars is brought to life with live science shows, family tours Technic workshops, and a Secret Mission family trail.

Families can join in with a traditional Easter Egg hunt (with a motoring twist of course!) over the Easter weekend from 30 March – 2 April. Plus there will be daily drop in craft activities suitable for all the family.

The AutoScience Easter activities will run from 3 - 15 April. The AutoScience Live shows take place every day at 11am (Science of KAPOW!), 2.15pm (Science of Speed) and 3pm (Science of KAPOW!). Each show lasts 25 minutes and is full of cool interactive demonstrations by our 'mad scientists' Professor Fickle and Doctor Pumpkin as they explain the science that drives our cars.

Visitors can also join Professor Fickle or Doctor Pumpkin on the AutoScience Family Tour which takes place every day at 1.30pm and gives families an insight to the Museum in a fun and relaxed way lasting no more than 20mins.

For LEGO® Technic fans AutoScience Technic Workshops will take place daily from 10am to 3pm, a chance to get hands-on to design, build and test your own LEGO® Technic machine. Race it along the 'Track' with the fastest car of the day winning the title 'Champion Designer' as well as a prize.

The AutoScience Secret Mission Trail also runs daily, just pick up a trail sheet from the Family Station and follow the photo clues around the Museum to find the seven Secret Mission boxes - solve the answers to collect a reward sticker.

Emma Rawlinson, Life Long Learning Officer for the British Motor Museum stated "From Easter Egg hunts to AutoScience shows with our very own 'mad professor' - as well as family tours, trails and craft activities, we have plenty to keep the whole family entertained this Easter whatever the weather!"

All activities are included in Museum admission and are suitable for 3 years plus with adult supervision. During busy periods family activities may move to a timed ticket basis. To avoid disappointment please check on arrival with the Family Station as places are limited and are subject to availability. For more information about Easter activities please visit www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/events/family-activities or call 01926 641188.

Oxy Oriental

Easter at Oxy Oriental

STARTERS

Start your lunch meal at Oxy Oriental with one of our fantastic starters. Choose from over 50 amazing starters from our buffet.

Salads
Prawn Crackers
Aromatic Lamb with Temmings
Sesame Prawn Toast
Deep fried Won Ton
Soups
Spare Ribs in Barbecue Sauce
Onion Rings
Vegetable Spring Rolls
Lemon Chicken
Deep Fried Chicken Wing
Vegetable Curry Samosa
Chips

MAIN COURSES

Continue your lunchtime voyage to Asia and get your taste buds tingling with some of our round the world dishes. Guaranteed to satisfy your hunger.

Pork Chops with Sweet Chilli Sauce
Sweet and Sour Chicken
Beef with Black Bean Sauce
Malaysian Chicken Curry
Vegetable Foo Yung
Stir Fried Egg Plants & Green Beans
Mushroom with Oyster Sauce
Mix Vegetable & Bean Curd with Yellow Bean Sauce
Deep Fried Aubergines
Fried Rice
Boil Rice
Chips
Noodles in Special Soy Sauce
Singapore Vermicelli

DESSERTS

Top off your lunch with something sweet. Don't worry, it's all for one affordable price!

Ice Cream
Jellies, Cakes and Fresh Fruits

DRINKS

Quench your thirst with something from our extensive drinks menu to wash down the best pan-asian food in Oxford.

A wide selection of White, Red and Rose Wines from Argentina, Italy, Chile, Australia and California
Selection of Sparkling Wines and Champagne
Selection of Draught Beers
Selection of Bottled International Beers
Selection of Branded Spirits, Liqueur, Brandy and Whisky and more
Soft Drinks, Fruit Juices and Mineral Water
Selection of Teas and Fresh Coffee

OPENING TIMES & PRICES

LUNCH
Monday to Friday (12 noon – 2.30pm)
Adult: £7.99
Child (under 150cm): £4.49
Minimum charge: £2.00
Saturday (12 noon – 4.00pm)
Adult: £8.99
Child (under 150cm): £5.00
Minimum charge: £2.00

EVENING
Monday - Thursday (5.30pm - 10.30pm)
Adult: £14.99
Child (under 150cm): £6.99
Minimum charge: £2.00
Friday & Saturday (5.30pm – 10.45pm)
Adult: £15.99
Child (under 150cm): £7.49
Minimum charge: £2.00
Sunday & Bank Holidays (12.00 noon – 10.00pm)
Open all day, full buffet is served
Adult: £12.99
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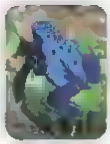

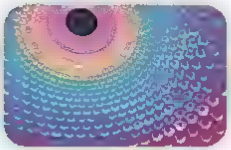

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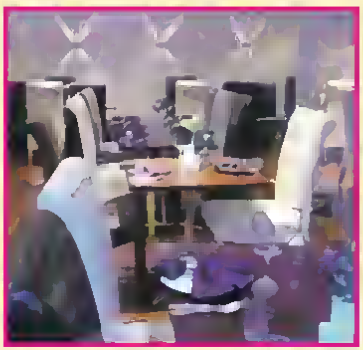

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An Eggcellent Easter

Easter and the history of Ostara – The Spring Equinox

The word Ostara is just one of the names for the celebration of the Spring Equinox on March 21. The origin of the word is actually from Eostre, a Germanic goddess of spring. Of course, it's also the same time as the Christian Easter celebration, and in the Jewish faith, Passover takes place as well. For early Pagans in the Germanic countries, this was a time to celebrate planting and the new crop season.

Typically, the Celtic people did not celebrate Ostara as a holiday, although they were very much in tune with the changing of the seasons.

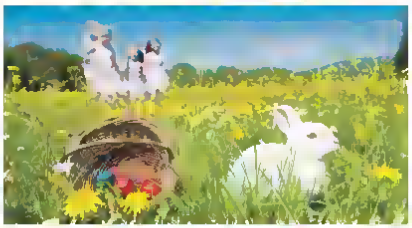
Spring equinox is a time for fertility and sowing seeds, and so nature's fertility goes a little crazy.

In medieval societies in Europe, the March hare was viewed as a major fertility symbol. This is a species of rabbit that is nocturnal most of the year, but in March when mating season begins, there are bunnies everywhere all day long. The female of the species can conceive a second litter while still carrying the first. As if that wasn't enough, the males tend to get frustrated when rebuffed by their mates and are known to bounce around erratically when discouraged.

This is a good time of year to start your planting any seedlings. If you grow a herb garden, start getting the soil ready for late spring. Celebrate the balance of light and dark as the sun begins to tip the scales, and the return of new growth is near.

Many modern Pagans mark Ostara as a time of renewal and rebirth. Take some time to celebrate the new life that surrounds you in nature– walk in a park, lay in the grass, hike through a forest. As you do so, observe all the new things beginning around you–plants, flowers, insects, birds. Meditate upon the ever-moving Wheel of the Year, and celebrate the change of seasons.

dandelions-in-front-of-a-basket-with-easter-eggs%3Bchildren-in-the-background-coming-on-an-egg-hunt



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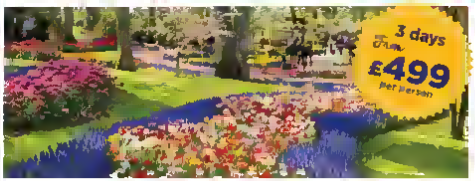

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An Eggcellent Easter

Advertorial

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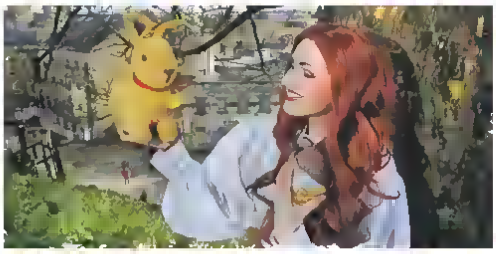
Elsewhere across the ancient castle site, join one of the attraction's regular 40-minute guided tours running every day of the Easter break (adults £11.50, children £7.95, concessions £9.75), take a short hike up the Castle Mound for breath-taking views over the city (entry to the mound £1 or free with a castle ticket) and find out about the brilliant work of the RSPCA who will be paying a visit to the castle yard over the course of the weekend."



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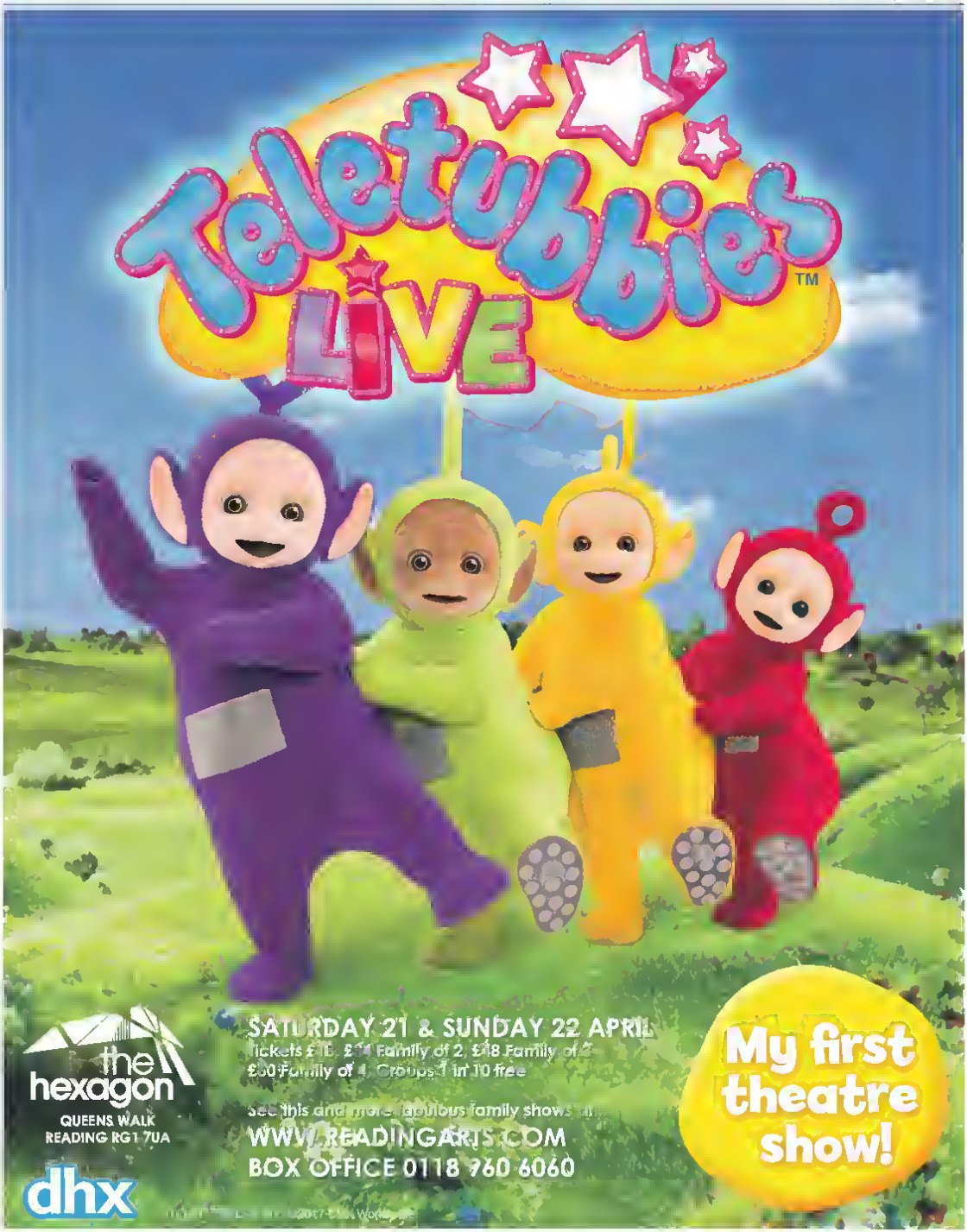
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Thursday March 29th

BBC 1

TOP TV

MORNING
9.15am Holding Back the Years
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

AFTERNOON
12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm Moving On
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Money for Nothing
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING
6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.38pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm MasterChef
9.00pm Not Going Out
9.30pm Still Game
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Unsolved
11.40pm The Week
12.30am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.35am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

MORNING
7.15am Coast
8.00am DIY SOS the Big Build
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live

AFTERNOON
12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm Black Narcissus
2.40pm Blitz Cities
3.10pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
4.10pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
5.10pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

EVENING
6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm The Repair Shop
7.00pm Mountain
8.00pm Big Cats
9.00pm Civilisations
10.00pm Match of the Day
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Top Gear
12.15am MasterChef
12.45am Saving the British Bulldog
1.45am Back in Time for Tea
2.45am That's BBC Two
4.00am Money for Nothing
4.45am Escape to the Country

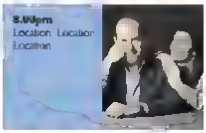
ITV

MORNING
8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON
12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING
6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Tonight
8.00pm Emmerdale
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm The Real Full Monty
10.30pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
11.00pm ITV News London
11.15pm Kingpin
1.15am Jackpot247
3.00am Tonight
3.25am ITV Nightscreen
5.00am The Jeremy Kyle Show

Channel 4

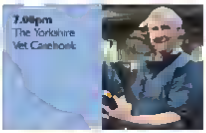


MORNING
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

AFTERNOON
12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale

EVENING
6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Location, Location, Location
9.00pm Indian Summer School
10.00pm 20 Kids and Counting
11.05pm Gogglebox
12.05am One Born Every Minute
1.00am The Supervet
1.55am Are You Autistic?
2.00am Dispatches
3.20am Thrifty Ways to... Summer Holiday

Channel 5



MORNING
8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Molly
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON
12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Buried Secrets
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING
6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm Goodbye Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun
9.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
10.00pm Do the Right Thing with Eamonn and Ruth
11.05pm Undercover Benefits Cheat
12.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am Britain's Greatest Bridges
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am The Great Artists

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Friday March 30th

TOP TV

BBC 1

MORNING

9.05am Painting the Holy Land
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.15pm Regional News and Weather
1.25pm 102 Dalmatians
3.00pm Escape to the Country
4.00pm Money for Nothing
4.45pm Ping It!
5.45pm Pointless

EVENING

6.30pm BBC News
6.50pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.00pm The Silent Child
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Knom 101
9.00pm MasterChef
9.30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.35pm Sports: The Greater Good
12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.15am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

7.30am Nature's Weirdest Events
8.30am Tinker Bell and the Secret of the Wings
9.40am Muppets Most Wanted
11.15am Six Puppies and Us

12.15pm Growing Up Wild
1.15pm Coast
1.00pm Canterbury Cathedral
2.00pm Talking Pictures
3.35pm The Robe
5.45pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

6.30pm Eggheads
7.00pm The Repair Shop
7.30pm Mastermind
8.30pm Gardeners' World
9.00pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
10.00pm Episodes
10.30pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace – American Crime Story
11.25pm The Way
1.25am Civilisations
2.25am The Assassination of Gianni Versace – American Crime Story
3.10am This is BBC Two

ITV

7.30am Home: Henry
8.20am Wishlart
8.50am Scrambled! Sketch Show
9.20am Mission Employable
9.25am K-9
11.15am King Ralph

1.15pm Countrywise
1.40pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.50pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
6.30pm ITV News London
6.45pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Love Your Garden
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Furious 7
11.30pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
11.38pm Rear's Mission with Anthony Joshua
12.40am The Dunmix
1.20am Jackpot247

Channel 4

7.20am Frasier
7.50am Animals Unleet
9.35am The Big Bang Theory
10.35am The Simpsons
11.05am The Simpsons
11.35am The Simpsons

12.05pm Romancing the Stone
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale
6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
7.30pm Food Unwrapped
8.00pm Britain's Favourite Food

9.00pm Gogglebox
10.00pm Lee and Dean
10.30pm 8 Out of 10 Cats
11.15pm Rob Beckett's Playing for Time
11.50pm Rude Tube
12.45am The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death
2.35am Electric Dreams
3.35am Damned
3.50am The Question Jury
4.45am Coast v Country
5.40am Streetmate
6.10am Marathon
6.40am Triathlon

Channel 5

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Molly
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.10am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

12.05pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.10pm Home and Away
12.40pm Neighbours
1.10pm Shenanigash
3.15pm The Searchers
5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm Home and Away
6.25pm 5 News Tonight
6.25pm Kensington Palace: Fit for a Princess
8.00pm Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson
9.00pm Jane Mcdonald and Friends
10.00pm Will and Grace
10.30pm Football on 5
11.30pm Football on 5
12.00am Super Casino
3.10am Gifs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am The X Files
4.45am House Doctor

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Saturday March 31st

BBC 1

3.00pm Shrek Forever After

TOP TV

MORNING

10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am Classic Mary Berry

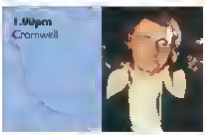
AFTERNOON

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.10pm Bargain Hunt
2.00pm MasterChef
2.20pm MasterChef
3.00pm Shrek Forever After
4.28pm Final Score
5.10pm A Question of Sport
5.40pm Doominugs

EVENING

6.00pm Ready or Not
6.30pm BBC News
6.40pm Regional News and Weather
6.45pm Pointless
7.35pm Who Dares Wins
8.20pm Casualty
9.10pm Troy: Fall of a City
10.10pm BBC News
10.30pm Match of the Day
12.00am Forget Me Not
1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.35am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2



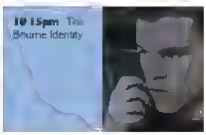
1.00pm Cromwell

8.00am Absolute Genius: Monster Builds
8.30am Beyond Rimac
9.00am Robot Wars
10.00am Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family and Me
11.00am Six Puppies and Us

12.00pm The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives
1.00pm Cromwell
3.15pm Canterbury Cathedral
4.15pm The Secret Helpers
5.15pm Big Cats

6.15pm Easter from King's
7.30pm Dad's Army
8.00pm Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs
9.00pm Hamlet
12.15am Civilisations
1.15am Therese Desqueyroux
3.00am This is BBC Two
6.20am Coast
6.50am Glorious Gardens From Above

ITV



10.15pm The Bourne Identity

8.30am Thunderbirds are Go
9.05am Wishlart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.25am Who's Doing the Dishes?

12.28pm ITV Lunchtime News
12.20pm The Harbour
1.00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury
1.30pm Britain's Brightest Family
2.00pm Celebrity Catchphrase
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm ITV Evening News
6.15pm ITV News London
6.30pm You've Been Framed!
7.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away
8.30pm The Voice UK
10.00pm ITV News
10.15pm The Bourne Identity
12.20am Goodwood Members Meeting Highlights
1.10am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sneity

Channel 4

9.00pm Taken 3

7.55am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.50am Frasier
10.25am The Big Bang Theory
10.55am The Big Bang Theory
11.20am The Big Bang Theory
11.50am The Simpsons

12.20pm The Simpsons
12.50pm The Simpsons
1.30pm Come Dine with Me
2.20pm Coast v Country
3.25pm A Place in the Sun
4.25pm A Place in the Sun
5.30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Coastal Railways with Julie Walters
8.00pm Britain at Low Tide
9.00pm Taken 3
11.10pm AVP: Alien vs. Predator
1.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.45am Hollyoaks Omnibus
3.55am The Question Jury
4.50am George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
5.45am Streetmate
6.15am King of Queens

Channel 5

2.30pm Oklahoma!

8.55am Noddy Toyland Detective
9.05am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.20am Shimmer and Shine
9.40am Digby Dragon
9.55am Peppa Pig
10.10am Gone with the Wind

2.30pm Oklahoma!
4.00pm 5 News
4.55pm Oklahoma!
5.15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

6.15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away: Final Demand!
7.00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
8.00pm Inside Winter Castle
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Most Shocking Sexist TV of All Time
10.20pm 20 Moments That Rocked the 80s
12.05am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel
4.00am The X Files
4.45am House Doctor

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Tue 20th Mar • 7.00pm
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+ Pauli

Sat 24th Mar • 6.30pm
Turin Brakes

Fri 30th Mar • 7.00pm
Super Hans

Fri 30th Mar • 11.00pm
White Magic Birthday Bash
Ft. Seani B, Allan Brando, Jah Will, 2Xclusive, Party Shot Movement

Sun 8th Apr • 7.00pm
3 Generations of Ska
+ Stranger Cole + Neville Staple Band
+ Sugary Staple + The AC30s + The Inflatables

Mon 9th Apr • 7.00pm
Dirty Sanchez
15 years of Dirty Sanchez live
feat. Lee Dainton & Matthew Pritchard

Sat 14th Apr • 6.30pm
The Blockheads
+ Chasing Daylight

Sat 14th Apr • 11.00pm
Darkzy UK Tour

Mon 16th Apr • 7.00pm
Little Comets

Wed 18th Apr • 7.30pm
Cabbage

Thur 19th Apr • 7.30pm
The White Buffalo
+ Alice Drinks The Kool-Aid

Fri 20th Apr • 6.30pm
Rejjie Snow
+ Eblast

Sat 21st Apr • 6.30pm
Isaac Gracie

Sun 22nd Apr • 7.30pm
MC Lars
+ Koo Koo Kanga Roo

Thu 26th Apr • 7.00pm
Will Heard

Thur 26th • 7.00pm
Don Broco

Fri 27th Apr • 6.30pm
Heather Small - The voice of M People

Sat 28th Apr • 6.30pm
UK Foo Fighers - Banging On the Ceiling Tour

Wed 2nd May • 6.30pm
Ocean Wisdom

Thur 3rd May • 7.00pm
Lower Than Atlantis

Fri 4th May • 6.30pm
Rhys Lewis

Fri 4th May • 6.30pm
Wilko Johnson
+ Hugh Cornwell Band

Fri 4th May • 11.00pm
Mighty Crown Far East Rulers

Sat 5th May • SOLD OUT • 6.00pm
Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls

Sun 6th May • 7.00pm
Mallory Knox

Mon 7th May • 7.00pm
The Bluetones
+ The Velvet Hands

Thur 10th May • 7.00pm
DMA's

Fri 11th May • 6.30pm
Marmozets

Sat 12th May • 6.00pm
Cold Black & Death Remains

Sat 12th May • 6.00pm
Seether

Wed 16th May • 6.30pm
Barrence Whitfield & The Savages

Wed 23rd May • 6.30pm
Coco and the Butterfields

Sun 27th May • 6.30pm
Cocaine Piss

Fri 1st Jun • 7.00pm
Carcer City

Sat 2nd Jun • 7.00pm
OMYO

Thu 7th Jun • 7.00pm
The Wedding Present
"Tommy" 30th Anniversary Tour

Sat 9th Jun • 7.00pm
A Band Called Malice
The Definitive Tribute to The Jam

Thur 14th Jun • 7.00pm
Sona Jobarteh

Fri 15th Jun • 6.30pm
Nick Heyward
+ Pugwash

Fri 22nd Jun • 7.00pm
Zodiac Reunion Party
Disques Vogo, Sky Larkin, Transformation, Osprey

Fri 14th Sep • 6.00pm
Molotov Jukebox

Sat 22nd Sep • 6.30pm
Dressed To Kill - A Tribute To KISS
+ Electric Circus (A Tribute to W.A.S.P)

Sat 6th Oct • 6.30pm
The Smyths - Unite and Take Over Tour 2018

Fri 12th Oct • 6.30pm
Antarctic Monkeys

Sat 13th Oct • 6.30pm
Britpop Boys

Thu 18th Oct • 7.00pm
The Daniel Wakeford Experience

Sat 27th Oct • 6.30pm
Guns 2 Roses

Sat 17th Nov • 6.30pm
Definitely Mightbe
Oasis tribute

Tue 27th Nov • 7.00pm
Shame

Fri 7th Oct • 6.30pm
Pearl Jam UK

Sun 2nd Dec • 7.00pm
Bjorn Again

Sat 22nd Dec • 6.30pm
Faith – The George Michael Legacy

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Sunday April 1

TOP TV

BBC 1

MORNING

9.00am Painting the Holy Land
10.00am Easter Day From Sheffield Cathedral
11.00am Urlar et Orla
11.25am The Silent Child
11.45am Bargain Hunt

AFTERNOON

12.25pm BBC News
12.40pm Shaun the Sheep Movie
2.00pm MasterChef
3.00pm MasterChef
4.00pm MasterChef
4.30pm Escape to the Country
5.00pm Songs of Praise
5.30pm BBC News
5.50pm Regional News and Weather

EVENING

6.00pm The Big Painting Challenge
7.00pm Countryfile
8.00pm The Generation Game
9.00pm Ordeal by Innocence
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.30pm The Women's Football Show
12.05am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.10am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

8.55am Countryfile
9.00am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
11.00am Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge
11.45am Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook

12.15pm MOTD2 Extra
1.00pm Coast
1.15pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
2.15pm Canterbury Cathedral
3.15pm RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin Mcgregor
4.45pm War Horse

7.00pm Dawn the Mighty River with Steve Backshall
8.00pm Top Gear
9.00pm Unsolved: Conspiracy Files
10.00pm Mock the Week
10.35pm Top Gear: Extra Gear
11.00pm Selma
1.00am Countryfile
1.55am Motley City
2.55am This is BBC Two
6.15am The Repair Shop
6.45am Money for Nothing

ITV

8.30am Spy School
9.05am Adventure Time
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Love Your Garden
10.00am Countrywise
10.30am The Voice UK

12.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.40pm Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
3.45pm Catchphrase
4.30pm ITV Evening News
4.45pm ITV News London
5.00pm Tipping Point

6.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special
7.00pm Change Your Tune
8.00pm The Durrells
9.00pm The Good Karma Hospital
10.00pm ITV News
10.15pm Sherlock Holmes
12.40am Marcella
1.30am Jackpot247
3.00am Take me to the Twenties
3.00am ITV Nightscreen
5.55am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.10am Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.25am Super 4

Channel 4

7.05am King of Queens
7.30am Everybody Loves Raymond
7.55am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Frasier
9.00am Frasier
9.55am Sunday Brunch

12.30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1.35pm The Simpsons
2.00pm The Simpsons
2.30pm The Simpsons
3.00pm The Simpsons
3.30pm Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade
4.00pm Dumbo
5.15pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Homes by the Med
8.00pm Escape to the Chateau
9.00pm Homeland
10.05pm The Green Mile
1.25am The Supervet
2.00am Coastal Walks with My Dog
3.15am KOTV Rowing Weekly
3.40am The Question Jury
4.55am George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
5.00am Streetmate
6.00am Countdown
6.45am 3rd Rock from the Sun

Channel 5

8.20am Peppa Pig
8.40am Peppa Pig
8.45am Thomas and Friends
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.35am Police Interceptors
11.40am Police Interceptors

12.40pm Joe Wicks
2.25pm Space Cowboys
4.55pm Stargate
5.55pm 5 News

6.00pm Stargate
7.10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Bruce Almighty
10.00pm 5 News
10.08pm Bruce Almighty
11.08pm Just Go with It
1.15am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Mirabel Hotel
4.00am The Railways That Built Britain, with Chris Tarrant
4.45am House Doctor

Monday April 2

BBC 1

TOP TV

9.15am Oxford Street Revealed
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

MORNING

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.15pm Regional News and Weather
1.25pm Father Brown
2.10pm Garden Rescue
2.35pm Escape to the Country
3.40pm Money for Nothing
4.25pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

AFTERNOON

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.28pm Regional News and Weather
6.30pm Celebrity Mastermind
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm MasterChef
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Classic Mary Berry
9.00pm Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.25pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Michael Mcintyre
11.30pm Live at the Apollo
12.18am Weather for the Week Ahead

EVENING

BBC 2

7.30am Nature's Weirdest Events
8.30am Gnomeo and Juliet
9.40am Rise of the Guardians
11.15am The Super League Show

12.00pm Funny Lady
2.15pm Trust Me, I'm a Vet
3.15pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
4.15pm Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
5.15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm The Repair Shop
7.00pm Top Gear
8.00pm Only Connect
8.30pm University Challenge
9.00pm Dave Allen at Peace
10.00pm Dave Allen: God's Own Comedian
11.00pm Z for Zachariah
12.30am Unsealed: Conspiracy Files
1.30am David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
2.00am Imagine...
3.30am This is BBC Two

ITV

7.30am Home: Henry
8.20am Wishfart
8.55am Scramble!!
9.20am Mission Emplyoable
9.25am Dragonheart
11.25am Free Willy

1.40pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.50pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
6.30pm ITV News London
6.45pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm The Kyle Files
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Marcella
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm The Real Full Monty
11.00pm The Durrells
12.40am The Kyle Files
1.00am Jackpot247

Channel 4

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am The Big Bang Theory
8.55am Thunder and the House of Magic
10.35am The Simpsons

12.00pm The Jewel of the Nile
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
7.30pm The Million Pound Holiday Club
8.30pm Travel Man
9.00pm The Island with Bear Grylls
10.00pm Kiss Me First
11.05pm Greg Davies: The Back of My Mum's Head
12.05am Lee and Dean
12.35am How to Get a Council House
1.30am Britain's Favourite Food
2.25am Coastal Walks with My Dog

Channel 5

8.35am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Milly
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away: Final Demand

12.05pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.10pm Home and Away
12.40pm Neighbours
1.10pm Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
3.10pm Oliver!
4.10pm 5 News
4.15pm Oliver!

6.00pm Neighbours
6.30pm Home and Away
6.55pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm Police Interceptors
9.00pm Paddington Station 24/7
10.00pm Police UK: Armed and Deadly
11.05pm Caught on Camera
11.30pm Football on 5
12.35am Football on 5
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel

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A fantastic journey right up to the Northern tip of the Highlands before boarding a minicruise to take a look at both the Orkneys and Shetland. Orkney is a group of 70 islands, the closest of which is just 6 miles of the mainland. The Shetlands lie closer to Norway than Britain so have a Scandinavian feel! We also use a circular route so that differing beautiful Scottish scenery is witnessed throughout.

YORKSHIRE GARDENS - HARROGATE
Mon 4th June 2018
5 Days £429

Includes RHS Harlow Carr and Castle Howard. Our base for this tour is the lovely spa town of Harrogate, well known for its tea shops, antique shops and Turkish baths. We also see some stunning Dale scenery as well as two World-famous gardens. Our new hotel will have entertainment on at least 2 nights. We will be staying at the traditional 3 star Cairn Hotel which is within walking distance of the town centre.

CUMBRIAN GEM
Mon 2nd July 2018
5 Days £399

Includes Lake District Cruise and Roman Fort!

The Gilsland Hall Hotel sits proudly in 140 acres of manicured gardens, grounds and natural woodland in an idyllic location with spectacular views over the Cumbrian and Northumberland countryside. The Hotel boasts its own Bowling Green, putting green and croquet lawn, and is situated very close to Britain's greatest Roman monument, Hadrian's Wall. We take this opportunity to explore Hadrian's Wall, plus the nearby Lake District as well as Cumbria's only city, Carlisle. We will be staying at the Gilsland Hall Hotel which offers great views & a comfortable stay.

PURE SCOTLAND
Sun 22nd July 2018
7 Days £589

Includes Haddo House, Pitmedden Gardens, Maritime Museum, Royal Deeside Railway & Drum Castle

A journey of discovery around some of Scotland's most magnificent castles, stately homes and gardens, many of which feature as must-see visits on Scotland's famous Castle Trail. We spend 4 nights in Aberdeenshire, known as 'Scotland's Castle Country' boasting some of the finest castles in the country. Our main hotel for this tour will be the 4 star Doubletree by Hilton which is located on Aberdeen's beach front.

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Why use a mortgage adviser when you can do it yourself?

I am often asked what a mortgage adviser does and why people choose to use one instead of contacting lenders themselves or using their banks.

There are many reasons to use a mortgage adviser and they are all to do with saving, save money save time and even save on making mistakes that will end in disappointment. But the main reason is that the purchase of your home will probably be the largest financial commitment you ever make, and mortgage advisers are not only experts on what products would be most suitable for you, they have access to lenders you won't find on the high street.

If you decide to phone a few mortgage companies for an idea of what they'd lend you and what it would cost you monthly, you would be limiting yourself to the companies you know and are happy to contact, until you run out of time or patience. They are not able to advise you on issues such as variable or fixed rates, and if fixed for how long? They can only give you the facts. The banks are the same. They will only be able to give you information about their mortgage products and again they won't be able to advise you.

Even after you have gathered the relevant paper work; payslips, P60s bonus information, proof of ID household budget etc you may be declined for a range of reasons you're unaware of. This can be a huge disappointment when so much time and effort has gone into that application.

Initial mortgage advice is usually free, and your mortgage adviser will spend time assessing your budget, future plans, and any issues that may arise with your application such as credit history They can help you decide your best mortgage options and approach multiple lenders on your behalf, including non high street lenders until they have found a suitable lender and product.

So it is worth consulting an expert who will inevitably save you time and possibly money in the long term by finding you a deal more suitable for you than those offered by high-street lenders.

A mortgage is a loan secured against your home or property Your home or property may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other debt secured on it.

You may have to pay an early repayment charge to your existing lender if you re-mortgage

Michael Alberts CeMAP is the Principal Mortgage Adviser at NGI Residential Mortgages www.ngiresidential.co.uk Tel. 01993 706403

NGI RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES

Why use a mortgage adviser when you can do it for yourself?

Did you know your mortgage adviser will spend time to assess your individual needs?

A mortgage is a loan secured against your home. Your home maybe repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortage or any other debt secured against it.

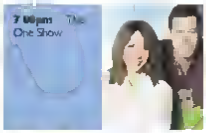
To find out more please speak to Mike Alberts our Principal Mortgage Adviser.

Call 01993 706403
Visit www.ngiresidential.co.uk

NGI Residential Mortgages Ltd is registered in England and Wales under reference 06686904
Registered office address: 47 Larch Lane Witney Oxfordshire OX28 1AG

Tuesday April 3rd

BBC 1



MORNING

9.15am Oxford Street Revealed
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Moving On
2.30pm Escape to the Continent
3.30pm Money for Nothing
4.15pm Fling It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.38pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm Holby City
9.00pm Crime Home
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.35pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm This Country
11.15pm R Kelly: Sex, Girls and Videotapes
12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.15am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

MORNING

7.15am Bargain Hunt
8.00am Hugh's Wild West
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live
11.20am Westminster in Review

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Golf
1.00pm The Super League Show
1.45pm Man it, Build it
2.15pm Trust Me: I'm a Vet
3.15pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
4.15pm Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
5.15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm The Repair Shop
7.00pm Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs
8.00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys
9.00pm Hospital
10.00pm Clunk on Britain
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
12.15am Great British Railway Journeys
12.45am MasterChef
1.45am Murder, Mystery and My Family
2.30am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
3.30am This is BBC Two

ITV

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

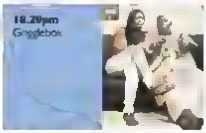
AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm 100 Year Old Driving School
8.00pm Paul O'Grady
9.00pm Last Laugh in Vegas
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm The Real Full Monty
12.05am Britain's Busiest Airport: Heathrow
12.55am Jackpot247
3.00am Loose Women
3.50am ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4



MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am The Simpsons

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer
9.15pm Seven Year Switch
10.25pm Gogglebox
11.20pm Indian Summer School
12.20am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.10am Britain's Favourite Food
2.05am The Million Pound Holiday Club
3.00am George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

Channel 5

MORNING

8.20am Fireman Sam
8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Milly
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Abducting Zoe
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
9.00pm Everest: World's Greatest Mountain
10.00pm Sabotage
11.00pm 5 News
11.05pm Sabotage
12.10am Police Interceptors
1.15am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel

Wednesday April 4

TOP TV

BBC 1

MORNING

9.15am Oxford Street Revealed
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
10.30am Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony

AFTERNOON

1.30pm BBC News
2.00pm Regional News and Weather
2.15pm Moving On
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.30pm Money for Nothing
4.15pm Fling It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.38pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
8.00pm MasterChef
9.00pm My Dad, the Peace Deal and Me
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm A Question of Sport
11.15pm Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid
12.15am Commonwealth Games 2018
2.30am Commonwealth Games 2018
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

MORNING

7.15am Bargain Hunt
8.00am See Hear
8.30am Classic Mary Berry
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am Street Auction
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.15pm The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food
2.00pm Trust Me: I'm a Vet
3.00pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
4.00pm Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
5.00pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm The Repair Shop
7.00pm Tinkley at the Garrett
8.00pm The Secret Helpers
9.00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace – American Crime Story
9.00pm Live at the Apollo
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Golf
11.45pm Hospital
12.45am See Hear
1.15am MasterChef
2.15am The Funeral Murders
3.15am Weather for the Week Ahead

ITV

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.35am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Britain's Brightest Family
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Benidorm
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm UEFA Champions League Highlights
11.45pm Play to the Whistle
12.35am Sunday Night at the Palladium
1.30am Jackpot247

Channel 4

MORNING

7.15am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Hotel Hell
11.00am The Simpsons
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AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
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5.30pm Star Boot Sale

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm The Supervet
9.00pm One Born Every Minute
10.00pm First Dates
11.05pm Gogglebox
12.05am Live From Abbey Road Classics
12.35am Seven Year Switch
1.30am Multiplicity
3.35am The Question Jury
4.25am George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
5.20am Streetmate

Channel 5

MORNING

8.20am Fireman Sam
8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Molly
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm Gifts Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm First-Class Fear
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm Gifts Behind Closed Doors
9.00pm Housing Yorkshire: Somewhere Called Home
10.00pm Why Do Men Earn More Than Women?
11.05pm Murder on the Internet
12.05am When Kids Kill
1.00am Super Casino
3.15am Inside Windsor Castle
4.00am Cruising with Jane McDonnell
4.45am House Doctor

Its official.

Hearing aids can do more than improve your hearing.

Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

A new hearing system is just the beginning and a hearing aid system is only as good as the audiologist prescribing and programming it.

At Keith Donaghy Hearingcare we offer the best bespoke hearing aid systems virtually unnoticeable fitting comfortably into your ear.

Keith will help you every step of the way whilst you adjust to your new hearing ability, for some this takes months for others a matter of a few weeks but Keith is always on hand to answer questions or give advice on getting the best from your system. The last thing he wants (as is often the case when insufficient aftercare is available) is for your hearing aids to end up in the back of a drawer somewhere, unused because you felt that nothing else could be done to rectify any programming or rehabilitation problems.

Keith wants to know if you have any concerns about your hearing aids no matter how big or small, so that you and he can work together to achieve the best results.

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The advertised price is correct as of 4 September 2017 and is based upon departures from Gatwick airport on 15 April 2018.

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ABTA The Travel Association

Advertising Feature

Who Cares?

Spring into a new career this month?

As Easter approaches it's a time to celebrate new life the flowers sprouting in gardens hedgerows promising sunny days ahead Cats may have nine lives – so ancient folklore tells us – but people aren't so fortunate That means it's all the more important that we spend the one we have in the best way we each of us can

And just as nature's buds unfurl, if you aren't already in a life you love then the spring is a great time to look ahead turn over a new leaf and make a fresh start

Most of us spend far more of our waking hours at work as we do at leisure and so having a job you enjoy makes the world feel a far better place And there are few roles more heartwarming than making people's lives better seeing a smile light up someones face when you arrive and knowing how much they appreciate your help

If that sounds appealing to you then consider a move to into social care where your support makes such a difference to other people s lives that it lifts your own day day in and day out.

We are hosting a series of friendly Come-and-find-out-more events in the Day and Nightcare Assistance offices in Oxford Banbury Wantage and Witney in April where if you think this might be for you, you can come and chat to members of the local team and find out what a new start could offer you what a working day might entail as a careworker and whether it would suit you

Witney 46 Market Place by Church Green's war memorial OX28 6AL Thurs 12th April 5 30-7 30pm Join us for a glass of wine and some nibbles!

Or come for a cup of tea and a slice of cake in

Banbury 13 Market Place OX16 5LG Wed 18th April 10-2pm

Oxford 9 Hollow Way Cowley OX4 2NA, Thurs 19th April 10-2pm

Wantage 1 Alfred Street, OX12 8AA Thurs 19th April 10-2pm

We are looking for people who have high standards and compassionate values love talking to people and thrive in a team while keeping their own independence and we are looking for new team members in Abingdon, Bicester Carterton, Didcot, Kidlington

Wallingford and Wheatley as well as local to our friendly offices If you can drive and have access to a car we ll provide all the training you need to get going And the travel expenses you ll receive will cover petrol and also make a generous contribution to the car's running costs

Day and Nightcare Assistance are small enough to be local and big enough to make a difference and we're looking to forward to meeting you. Or you can get in touch right away

Happy Easter!

COULD YOU ADD SUNSHINE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S DAYS?

Day and Nightcare Assistance are looking for new team members to provide care in people's homes in towns and villages near you and across Oxfordshire. No experience necessary: we'll give you all the training you need to get going.

With flexible hours on offer to suit you – part time, full time or even live-in - coordinated by friendly offices in Oxford, Witney, Wantage and Banbury, and the option of an hourly rate or a guaranteed salary, we'd love to hear from you right away!

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www.danacare.co.uk

Day and Nightcare Assistance

Lies, damned lies and Oxford property price statistics!

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Last week the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a report on house prices. In the report, Oxford was singled-out as a market that had experienced a 4.7% fall in house prices. Even London had done better much better!

I place reliance on Land Registry data – information that is based on the houses and apartments that have sold. That data is reporting that Oxford house prices have increased year on year by 3% based on data for the year to February 2018. A massive 7.7% spread between two valued and supposedly trustworthy sources.

So why the 7.7% spread in house price changes?

The ONS report is based on data just for the month of January i.e. January 2018 vs January 2017. In-month Oxford sale prices can be rather erratic, and also subject to later revision, once the data is confirmed for all completed sales. To illustrate this point, the ONS reports that Oxford properties increased in value by 0.7% in December 2017 but fell by 4.7% in January 2018 – quite a difference. I think you will agree. In December the ONS also reported that prices in London's Kensington and Chelsea had fallen by 10.7% only to revise that to minus 6.9% in their January report.

So why is the ONS data so volatile? It is largely because of the way the data is collated. Registrations of properties following a sale take some time, often reaching the Land Registry months after the sale is completed. As a result, the data improves in accuracy over time requiring the ONS to recalculate their index figures each month for previous months.

At the time of writing the Land Registry has just 41 sales registered in Oxford for January 2018 compared to 117 in January 2017. That is a small sample, and one that can be significantly affected by the actual properties included - for example, the January 2017 data contains a few higher value properties with a sale price over £1.2m. If the January 2018 data contains more 2 or 3 bad roomed properties nearer the Oxford average, it is bound to result in a poor comparison with January 2017.

It is much better to use data that is based on rolling a 12-month period so each month's data is based on movement over the last 12 months ensuring a much larger sample and avoiding erratic in month changes.

But what can the ONS data tell us? In isolation not very much. But, together with longer-term trend data there is a definite slowing in the rate of annual growth in Oxford's property prices. Over the last 4 or 5 months, the long-term trend of growth has progressively reduced from c6% down to the February 3%. This together with a continued reduction in total transactions points to a market where property is expensive and where home owners either can't afford to move, or are choosing to stay put and improve the property they have. It also points to a market where buyers are taking their time to commit, reflecting a shortage in choice and caution given the gearing required to proceed.

For home owners in a hurry to move, sensible pricing and targeted marketing are critical.

For more commentary on Oxford's property market visit www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk

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MARTIN&CO

DIY your way to a more saleable home

Whilst it hasn't felt very Spring like in recent weeks the Easter weekend is almost upon us and that traditionally signals the start of the DIY season.

With lighter, brighter and hopefully warmer evenings ahead, you may even get out and about to explore your local area and consider your next move on the property ladder. If this is the case, you'll want to ensure that your current home is as marketable as possible so if you're planning some DIY projects over the long weekend, you may wish to bear the following in mind.

First impressions count! Ensure the kerb appeal of your home is positive. After all the recent inclement weather, your garden is likely to need some TLC. Time spent collecting up any debris that has been blown around, pots that are lying forlornly on their sides and giving the fence a fresh lick of paint can do wonders.

As the weeks pass, and Spring really makes itself known, you'll also want to keep on top of mowing the lawn and pruning the plants, but don't worry if you don't have green fingers – a few simple pot plants can really add that all important welcome to your home.

The external elevations of your property itself may also need some attention. Now is the time to consider whether a fresh lick of paint would be a worthwhile investment and don't forget that simply cleaning the windows can really add some all important sparkle.

Once inside, the smell of freshly baked bread and recently brewed coffee have been considered for many years as the key to creating a homely feel. Let's be honest though, how many of us have the time or inclination to go this far? Simply you simply can't beat fresh air, so when the mercury rises sufficiently throw open some windows and doors and before a viewing.

Accepting, however that we may still be a few weeks away from sufficient warmth to allow the windows to be thrown open, why not use the long weekend to carry out a thorough spring clean and de-clutter?

When you market your home for a sale it's the bricks and mortar that you're selling along with the overall ambience and ability for the viewer to imagine building their own life there. They'll need to see beyond your own contents to achieve this though, so now is a great time to get rid of any old furniture that you're no longer going to need or want. A neat, tidy home will give a clean, fresh impression as well as make rooms seem larger.

Finally, if you're a dab hand with a roller and brush and enjoy nothing more than giving a room a fresh lick of paint we're increasingly seeing that neutral, yet contemporary, shades such as grey are popular choices. If you've previously gone too bold, then a room can be transformed with a quick paint job and provide the purchaser with a blank canvas from which to start building their own memories.

If you're considering selling your home, then why not pop in to your local Andrews branch (there are five across Oxfordshire) or visit us online at www.andrewsonline.co.uk for expert tips on how to maximise the value and appearance of your home.

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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Andrews

Fyfield £650,000
Nestled in the heart of this picturesque Oxfordshire village, is this exquisite double fronted, five bedroom detached cottage. EPC - D

Burcot £600,000
A superb Four Bedroom/Three Reception detached family home in a sought-after South Oxfordshire Village, tucked at the end of a cul-de-sac EPC - D

NEW INSTRUCTION

Culham £600 000
A truly unique and impressive home perfectly positioned on the outskirts of the desirable South Oxfordshire village of Culham. This delightful four bedroom property offers generous and versatile accommodation with plenty of living and entertaining space and a superb 110 40 rear garden EPC - E

Abingdon £400,000
Grade II Listed four bedroom home situated in the heart of Abingdon-on-Thames, within 400 feet of the market place and includes allocated parking.

Lindsay Drive, Peachcroft £275,000
Perfectly positioned in a cul-de-sac on the popular Peachcroft development in North Abingdon is this charming two bedroom house. EPC- C

Long Wittenham £425,000
A super four bed detached family home with solar panels tucked away in a cul-de-sac within the popular village of Long Wittenham EPC - D

NEW INSTRUCTION

Abingdon £230,000
A fantastic two bedroom ground floor maisonette This impressive apartment offers generous rooms, ample storage and parking space EPC - C

Ock Street, Abingdon 325,000
A delightful two bedroom home offering period charm with a modern finish and is beautifully presented throughout. EPC - E

Wantage £650,000
A superb four bed detached home with a generous and versatile layout. Includes a double garage and front/rear gardens EPC - C

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Perfect for a family and for business

By **Tony Yates**

MANY people still say that Skoda is nothing more than a cheaper version of a VW – and of course I disagree with this very much, because Skoda have proved to me over the last few years that they are more than capable of standing on their own two feet and I for one now look at Skoda as an individual company which produces fantastic cars. I mean just look at the new Octavia VRS. It's an awesome car and it deserves to be right in the spotlight because it's utterly brilliant in every way.

Power and efficiency

The 2.0-litre TSi petrol engine has a 0-62 time of 6.4 seconds and a top speed of 155mph. Fuel consumption is also good, giving a combined figure of 42.8mpg. So, firstly how well does it get a move on.

Basically, like a scalded Cat if I'm being honest. I'm not kidding here folks it's astonishingly quick. The vRS for me is the total sleeper car – so be warned, if you do decide to take it on, you will almost certainly be crossing the finish line in second place.

The new Skoda Octavia is more than capable of standing on its own two feet.

On the road

The 245PS engine that's fitted to the vRS is enthusiastic and pretty much perfect. Also into the corners, the chassis feels poised and tight, even when dealing with all the potholes and bumps on some of our worst roads. Plus when the tarmac gets twisty the chassis firms up to give you maximum grip in and out of every corner. The steering also feels light, direct and is perfectly balanced with plenty of feedback on what the road beneath you is doing.

Interior & technology

First off I'm so glad to see that the designers at Skoda have paid a lot of attention to the detail inside the cabin of the vRS and thankfully it now feels more refreshing and modern than the previous vRS model I tested a while ago. Also the seats are really comfy and the controls are well set out – plus the addition of the cabin mood lighting on the door panels is a lovely touch and something that helps soothe the mind.

On the inside there's plenty of standard equipment, which includes dual-zone air conditioning, cruise control, acoustic rear parking sensors, Amundsen touchscreen satellite navigation system, driving mode selection (eco/comfort/sport/custom), driver fatigue sensor electro mechanical front locking differential, driver's seat with memory function and 19" Xtreme gloss black alloy wheels.

Plus you also get ESC incl. EBV, MSR, ASR, EDS, TCBA and DSR ESBS, TSA, MKB. XDS all as standard along with more kit than you will ever need. That's what I love about Skoda, they are not afraid to give you everything you will ever need, right there when you need it.

Space inside the Octavia is very good – easily managing to fit in a family of four. The boot space alone is also huge – and you would have no trouble at all fitting in the whole family.

Also, if you are looking to own the vRS as a business car then go and sign on the dotted line right 'now' – before they all sell out.

To sum up

I like the Octavia vRS because its practical, fun to drive, has bags of torque and plenty of space on the inside. Big Skoda smiles here then.

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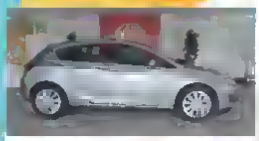

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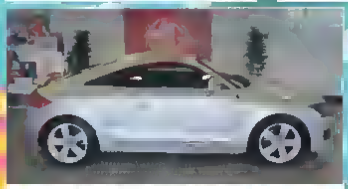

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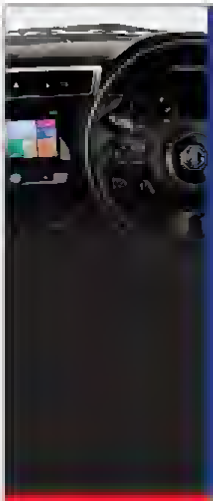

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Model Shown: Jazz EX 1.3 i-VTEC Manual in White Orchid Pearl at £17,815 On The Road (OTR). Terms and Conditions: New retail Jazz EX 1.3 i-VTEC petrol ordered from 31 February 2018 to 31 March 2018 and registered by 31 March 2018. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and not at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. 0% APR representative Honda Assistance (HDF): Maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Excess mileage charge (includes VAT at current rate, inclemencies may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Johnsons Cars Limited are credit brokers, not lenders. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Financial Services is a trading name of Honda Finance Europe Plc, Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL a company registered at Companies House No 01288418. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. 5 Years £599 Servicing: Please visit www.honda.co.uk/cars/offers. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 612480) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313496) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA. Registration No: 3718794. VAT Registration No. GB662256 805.

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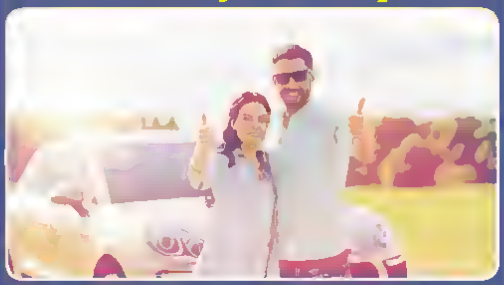

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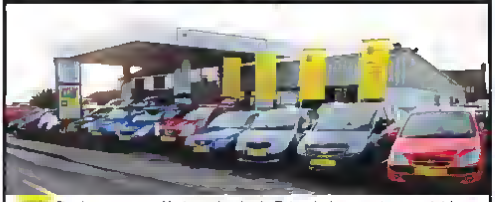

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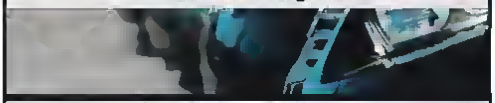

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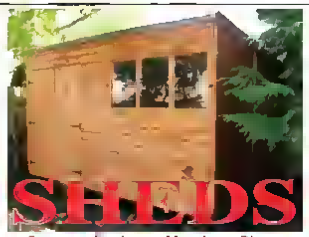

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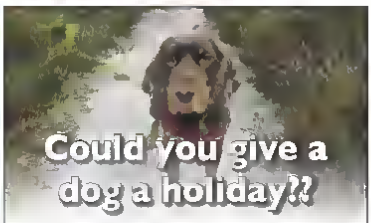

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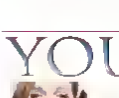
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VALERIE, caring lady 70s BIGOH looking to meet a kind gent for outings, companionship, perhaps more Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 43867

MONICA, most german lady, 38yrs, searching to meet a man/woman, easygoing gent of any age. South Coast/London only pls. That Only. Box: 4079665

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HELEN sophisticated, cultured lady, 30 something looking mature man for fun pleasures. Charmed with no strings. Tel: 0906 5 2 3686 Box: 0861 71

ANNE 58yrs, 5ft2ins loving lady loves life, socialising, everything really. Hoping to meet a respectful loving older gent. ACA Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 43863

SILLY 50yrs, voluptuous curvy small graceful lady. Varied interests, humour, mutual pampering. Looking to meet a man for mutual pleasures. Discretion ensured & appreciated. Call me. Tel: 0906 500 3686 Box: 43860

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KAREN 41yrs, long legged blonde lady wishes sex swings fun with strap of any age. ACA. Tel. 0906 500 3686 Box No: 43861

KARES 40 something blonde x1 required WLTM sincere gentleman for good conversation, fun older and also details @SOH ac absolute must. Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No.: 43872

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ANNA, 33yrs attractive blondie lady, with lovely curves. Seeking man any age for sex swings discreet fun. Tel. 0906 500 3686 Box: 43872

ANGELA, 48yrs, wishes no strings casual fun, have my own house, non smoker. Tel: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 813681

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WHITE male 50, needs genuine, loyal sincere older blondie for LTR Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 413681

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Hard day at the office for Haas

By George Welch

F1 - Haas/Renault

EXTRA pitstop practice will be scheduled for Haas after a pair of "heartbreaking" unsafe releases put both cars out of the first Formula 1 race of the season.

Kevin Magnussen and Romain Grosjean were running fourth and fifth respectively at the Australian GP, putting the Banbury based side on course to score their best-ever result since joining the sport in 2016.

The duo built on a mightily impressive qualifying, have lined up P5 and P6 on the grid after Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo's grid penalty locking out the third row.

However, in a catastrophic few moments at Albert Park, both cars retired on the lap following their respective pit stops, losing them a potential 22 points which is just shy of half their entire tally in 2017.

Team principal Guenther Steiner confirmed the wheels "weren't tied on correctly" and the cars had to be stopped.

He said: "As much as you don't want to say it, it's racing. It happens, even though it shouldn't. It's almost unbelievable to have this in one race, and on two cars, while running fourth and fifth."

To add insult to injury, Haas were given a €10,000 fine for the unsafe release of their cars from the pit stop.

The team, who look to have improved massively on their last two years' eight placed finishes, have vowed to bounce back.

Romain Grosjean heads down the pit lane, where it all went wrong for Haas. Picture Haas F1

Magnussen, the first Haas driver to retire, said: "It's a very tough one to swallow for the whole team. To have both cars not finishing is just heartbreaking. I'm beyond disappointed."

Grosjean, who was forced to call it a day just three laps later, added: "We'll come back stronger as we always do. It's a lot of points lost today but if we can repeat that performance over and over we're going to forget this very quickly."

It was also a tough weekend for Renault's Carlos Sainz who appeared the faster of the Enstone team's drivers but struggled with sickness.

He salvaged a point but team-mate Nico Hulkenberg, who benefitted from the Haas drop-outs, scooped six more with a seventh-placed finish.

The next race is in Sakhir for the Bahrain GP on April 8.

Afternoon to forget for both Stroll and Sirotkin

F1 - Williams

LANCE Stroll says Williams is "surviving" rather than racing after a pointless start to the 2018 Formula 1 season in the Australian Grand Prix.

The Canadian teenager pulled no punches voicing his frustration about a nightmare opening weekend in Melbourne for the Grove-based side.

Stroll finished Sunday's race at Albert Park 14th of the 15 finishers, behind rookie Charles Leclerc in a supposedly inferior Sauber.

He said: "We are just basically trying to get the car to the end of the race instead of racing.

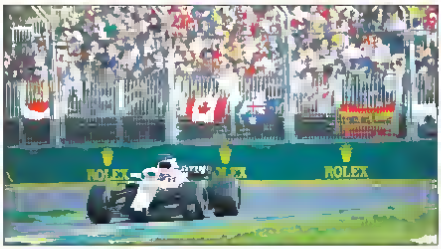
"There was a lot going on today with big issues that cost us a lot of race time. I hope we can find the solution before [the next race in] Bahrain."

The 19-year-old added: "We were in the wrong mode on the first lap and that is the reason [Force India's Esteban] Ocon got me.

"We also have none of the extra power we need for the safety car restart which is where I lost the place to Leclerc."

Team mate Sergey Sirotkin meanwhile retired from his first grand prix after five laps with a brake problem and the suspected cause is an early contender for most bizarre retirement explanation of the year – a plastic sandwich bag.

Chief technical officer Paddy Lowe described the race as "an afternoon to forget".



Lance Stroll finished 14th out of 15 cars and admitted they were 'just trying to get to the end of the race' Picture Williams Martini Racing

Michael Ridge takes the line out ball

Honours even as clubs push for promotion

Rugby

HONOURS were shared in the Oxfordshire derby as Wheatley and Littlemore played out a dramatic 19-19 draw at the Oxford Academy.

The push for promotion is still on for both clubs who were competing for second in the league with Tadley hot on the heels of both sides.

Current second placed favourites Littlemore were under pressure early on as Wheatley took the lead within two minutes.

Wheatley winger Toby Butler finished off the move of the game after a stunning team try following a quick break down the left flank.

Sanda Mpanza and James Neal were the star performers in an almost faultless first half with the biggest blow coming via a knee injury forcing Michael Ridge off the field.

The second half proved a more even contest as Littlemore frustrated the purple men after a dominant first half.

Wheatley eventually succumbed to a succession of penalties and a minute before time, Littlemore crashed over with the conversion to secure the draw.

The result leaves Littlemore in second on 52 points, 15 ahead of Wheatley in fourth.

Elsewhere, bottom club Abingdon thrashed Tadley 22-0 ahead of trips to Wheatley on April 7 and Littlemore on April 14.

Wheatley's star performer Sanda Mpanza thwarts a Littlemore attack Pictures. Matt Gibb

Teenage rider jumps to victory with clear round

Showjumping

AN Oxfordshire rider landed a top title at the British Showjumping Spring Championships 2018 earlier this month.

Oliver Fletcher, from Faringdon, became the Winter 1.35m Champion with Graham Fletcher's 15-year-old bay gelding, Caicos.

Oliver, 15, picked up the title with the sole jump-off clear in the final draw at the showjumping championship held at Addington Manor, Buckingham.

Fences fell with alarming regularity as riders chased the handsome £1,500 first prize, but it was Oliver, the youngest in the class, who produced a penalty-free round to take home the glory.

Oliver said: "There is more pressure to jump clear than to go against the clock and chase a target, but pressure brings out the best in me, it makes me ride better."

Caicos previously competed with Paul Tapner before turning to showjumping and was ridden by Alfie Bradstock until Oliver took over in September last year.

Oliver added: "He has all the scope in the world, has the right mentality and wants to do the job.

"I rode him for an hour this morning. In the first, the first three jumps I need lots of leg, after that, no leg at all."

Nine of 21 starters posted first round clears over the 12 fence track designed by London 2012 course designers Bob Ellis and Nigel Jess.

Oxfordshire teenager Oliver Fletcher and horse Caicos took top prize in the Winter 1.35m Final

Stars shine brightest as they win league title

Ice Hockey

ECSTATIC fans celebrated wildly as Oxford City Stars swept aside nearest rivals Solent Devils to be up the South One title with a game to spare

A full house of supporters in yellow watched their heroes beat the Devils 3-1 in a high-pressure match at Oxpens Road on Sunday

The clash was the first meeting between the two sides but it was the most important game of the year for both teams

With the Devils only one point behind the Stars in the table and with both team s last two games being a double header against each other, the stakes could not have been higher

A win for the Stars in regulation would be enough to crown them South One champions – and that is exactly what they did.

A goal in each period from Darren Elliott (15 minutes) Matthew Lawday (20) and Joe Edwards (49) put Kenny Redmond's side in the driving seat.

Oxford City Stars celebrate their win
Picture *Paul Foster*

Solent skipper Alex Cole grabbed a consolation with less than four minutes remaining but, by then, the win was already secured for the hosts.

The title win is unsurprising given the Stars have shone brightly all season, losing just twice and scoring double figures on eight occasions

The return fixture in Gosport on April 7 is inconsequential to both sides ahead of the play-offs

Darts put City through the Hoops

By George Welch

Oxford City

OXFORD City came out second best to title chasers Dartford in a 2-0 defeat at Marsh Lane on Saturday

Clinical finishing from Elliot Bradbrook in the first half put the away side ahead before Tom Murphy doubled Darts advantage to strike the decisive blow late on in the game.

Mr Fofana lined up in midfield for the Hoops in place of Godfrey Poku who was unavailable due to an injury picked up at Park View Road following the win at Welling United.

The midfielder dislocated his knee but did not suffer any significant ligament damage and is expected to be out for another few weeks

Poku s replacement suffered a heavy challenge of his own in the first three minutes which produced the only booking of the game dished out to Darts player Alex Brown.

The deadlock was broken two minutes later when Bradbrook struck from the edge of the box to send the ball sailing past the outstretched hand of Craig King into the corner

Matt Paterson and Sam Nombe both had good chances before the half was over but could not find a way through to goal.

Darts looked the better team as the second half got under way almost doubling their lead three minutes in with Bradbrook nearly nabbing his second but for a goal line clearance from Eddie Jones

On 68 minutes, Fofana made way for the attacking instincts of Zac McEachran, whose corner soon after caused mayhem at the back for Dartford. But the tie was decided when Murphy's curled effort from the left flank found the far corner on 75 minutes

Manager Mark Jones said: "I can't criticise the boys for the way they tried to go about things today, we dominated the game really I'm not quite sure how we haven't scored, we hit the woodwork twice and had two or three very good chances Sometimes in football you have to take it on the chin, but I thought the performance was very, very good from us."

Sam Numba leaps to reach the ball but couldn't convert a good chance
Picture *Michael Allan*

The result leaves the Hoops 10th in National League South on 31 points ahead of tomorrow s (Friday) trip to play-off hopef uls Braintree Town.

Eleven away goals move Didcot back into the top six

Evo Stik round-up

DIDCOT Town moved back into the top six in the Evo-Stik West after scoring 11 goals in two away games

The Railwaymen secured their first away win of 2018 on Saturday in a nine-goal thriller at Slimbridge

George Reid put the visitors ahead inside six minutes before Morgan Williams (30 minutes) Adam Learoyd (37) and a second for Reid (45) ensured an emphatic 4-0 half time lead.

Felipe Barcelos (67) and Callum McNish (77) completed the rout to end the contest at 6-3

Didcot followed up their astonishing win by hagging five more in a 5-1 thumping at bottom club Bishops Cleeve on Tuesday

McNish and Williams were again on the scoresheet alongside Stuart Cattell had a George Jeacock penalty

Elsewhere Kidlington were on the wrong side of a 1-0 loss at Bishops Cleeve on Saturday while 18th placed North Leigh are 10 points clear of the bottom after coming away from Mangotsfield United with a 3-1 win

North Leigh visit Barnstaple Town on Saturday, Didcot host Cinderford and Kidlington take on Taunton

In the Evo-Stik East, 11th placed Thame United suffered back-to-back defeats, falling to a 3-2 home defeat on Saturday to Egham Town before a trip to Moneyfiels us Tuesday resulted in a 4-1 loss. Thame host bottom club Arlesey Town on Saturday

Freds give themselves promotion chance with victory

Hellenic round-up

WANTAGE Town kept their slim promotion chances alive with a vital 2-0 win at home to fellow high-flyers Flackwell Heath

Saturday's win, secured by two first half Harvey Scholes goals, was payback for the Freds last defeat, a 4-0 loss in February's reverse fixture against Flackwell

After an even opening, Town took the lead with their first attempt on goal in the 18th minute, Scholes firing home on the edge of the area.

The winger doubled the hosts' advantage with a perfect free kick just before the break.

Flackwell dominated the final 20 minutes but failed to break a deep Wantage defence, even when Town substitute Matt Cheetham was sent off for two rash tackles inside two minutes in the 84 minute

Third placed Wantage, who have since re-signed last seasoo s top scorer Mark Francis from Salisbury for the run-in, still have it all to do to break into the top two with five games remaining

They are two points behind second placed Thatcham Town having played two games more and Bracknell Town, a place and four points lower, have four games in hand on the south Oxfordshire side

Oxford City Nomads lost 1-0 at home to Brimscombe & Thrupp on Tuesday having put in two good performances in the preceding games

Abingdon United did not have a game

Oxfordshire leagues results

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 24 March
Oxford City 0-2 Dartford

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 24 March
Banbury United 3-1 St Ives

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 24 March
Thame United 2-3 **Egham Town**
Tuesday 27 March
Moneyfields 4-1 **Thame United**

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 24 March
Bishops Cleeve 1-0 **Kidlington**
Slimbridge 3-6 **Didcot Town**
Tuesday 27 March
Bishops Cleeve 1-5 **Didcot Town**
Mangotsfield United 1-3 **North Leigh**
Wednesday 28 March
Kidlington v Shortwood United

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 24 March
Wantage Town 2-0 Flackwell Heath
Tuesday 27 March
Oxford City Nomads 0-1 Brimscombe & Thrupp

Self strikes to set up the seventh win

Banbury United

IN-FORM Banbury United stretched their unbeaten run to seven games with a 3-1 win at home to St Ives Town.

A first half Jack Self goal and strikes from Ricky Johnson and Tom Winters in the final 20 minutes secured the victory for a fourth win in seven games.

Particularly impressed by winger Winters United boss Mike Ford was delighted to make it back-to-back wins at home

He told Puritans Radio: "That was Tom Winters best game for us for a long time and he deserved his goal We always need to get the ball to Tom early so he can deliver it."

The former Oxford City boss added: "It was a good win, these games are always difficult and we've lost or drawn ones like these at home this season.

"In general, we dominated the game apart from small periods when we were poor

"We weren t fantastic and we need to be better on the ball because that suits the type of players we have here

"As the game wore on we got better when St Ives were looking to nick a draw."

The Puritans (9th), who last tasted defeat in January, travel to Frome Town (12th) on Saturday and entertain Stratford Town (14th) at the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium on Monday

Red card game changer after a promising start

By George Welch

Portsmouth 3

Kal Naismith 5, Brett Pitman 69 79

Oxford United 0

Alex Mowatt 62

Attendance: 17,892 (1,050 away)

ALEX Mowatt missed a penalty and was sent off as Karl Robinson's Oxford United reign began with a 3-0 defeat at play-off chasing Portsmouth on Sunday

A moment of madness from the Barnsley loanee cost his side dearly when he lashed out at Pompey's Nathan Thompson, who provoked the midfielder after missing a second half spot kick.

United fell behind to an early corner when Rob Dickie lost his header and Ashley Smith-Brown lost his man, allowing Kal Naismith to tap home from close range

Pompey dominated the first quarter of the game, but there were positives for an Oxford side that improved as the half progressed

James Henry pinged the crossbar as United grew into the game, before Luke McGbee in the Pompey goal thwarted Malachi Napa and Dickie had a header cleared agonisingly off the line.

Pressure on the home goal increased in the second half and, on the hour mark, Dickie was hurled down by Matt Clarke in the Portsmouth area.

But Mowatt got his angles wrong and, as unlucky as he was, the ball shot off the inside of the post and away from danger

And then chaos broke out.

Wind up merchant Thompson goaded Mowatt mercilessly for his miss and, in response, the 23-year old lashed out at the former Swindon Town defender

A melee ensued and, once tempers had calmed down Mowatt was given his marching orders. Mowatt will serve a three-match ban and has since apologised

It was a key moment in the game as United, despite going behind early on, were the dominant side and worth at least a point.

The hopes of 10-man Oxford crumbled moments later when Brett Pitman smashed in a wicked Jamal Lowe cross from close range.

Portsmouth, without manager Kenny Jackett who was seeing to a family illness, were well on the way to their first home win of 2018 when the same duo linked up again, Pitman thumping home for his second goal of the afternoon and the 19th of a prolific campaign

Oxford fizzled out after the second goal and defeat leaves them in 16th place, five places and five points above the relegation zone

'Decision cost the team'

PANTOMIME villain Alex Mowatt described his moment of madness as "the worst 60 seconds" of his life.

The creative midfielder apologised to his team but will miss games against Scunthorpe United (tomorrow), Shrewsbury Town (Monday) and Oldham Athletic (April 7) after lashing out at Nathan Thompson having missed a vital penalty

"We were the better team by a mile and that stupid decision has cost the team," he said.

"He's got in my face and I've reacted which I shouldn't have done. He shouldn't be in my face

"I've hit the post and it's probably the worst 180 seconds of my life."

The dismissal was the 23-year-old's third of his career. It was his first in yellow but the loanee also saw red while playing for parent club Barnsley and Leeds United.

Mowatt added: "I've apologised to the staff and the players. It's out of character for me and I should never have reacted (in that way)

"We were in control of the game and I'm disappointed with myself for missing the penalty in the first place."

The Doncaster man has scored three goals in 23 Oxford appearances in all competitions, 10 of which have been from the bench.

Alex Mowatt, pictured against Peterborough United earlier this month, has received a three-match ban
Picture, Steve Daniels

Robbo fuming after penalty incident

A REELING Karl Robinson blasted Portsmouth's Nathan Thompson as a "disgrace" and slated the referee for "one of the biggest mistakes in a long time" for not sending the player off for goading Alex Mowatt

The new United boss was angered that Thompson was not handed a second yellow for getting in the face of Mowatt, who missed a second half penalty

Robinson said: "I'm fuming. The referee has made one of the biggest mistakes I've seen in a long time

"Thompson got booked in the first half. What he did was an absolute disgrace.

"My player should not react the way he did. He will be reprimanded and spoken to internally but what he did to my player and then not to get booked for that.

"If one of my players did that I would be more disappointed with that reaction than what Alex did."

Robinson described Mowatt's actions as "unacceptable", adding: "I don't think professional footballers should do what they did."

Mowatt's loss of control and the 3-0 defeat aside, the 37 year-old was upbeat following an encouraging performance

"We were the better team by a long way," he said.

"Take away the first five minutes and that's a very good performance against a good team. We dominated every aspect of the pitch, had the most chances and you wouldn't have known there was a difference in the league table at all."

New badge marks 125 years

A NEW club badge has been unveiled by Oxford United to mark the 125th anniversary

The club say the stripes in the background have been added to echo the team's success in the 1920s when they won back-to-back promotions while wearing a pinstripe kit.

The badge will feature on the club's new home kit which will be worn for the first time in the final home game of this season against Rochdale.

The SkyBet League One club was formed in October 1893 as Headington United

Spectacular goal not enough for victory

OUFCW

CHLOE Chivers, pictured, scored a spectacular goal but missed a penalty as a rusty Oxford United Women's side were well beaten 4-2 by Millwall Lionesses on Sunday

The defeat at Oxford City's Court Place Farm, United's first game in over a month, was their third WSL2 loss in a row

A first half Rianna Dean double put the visiting Lionesses in command before Kayleigh Hines pulled one back for the U's shortly before half time.

And the hosts should have been level at the break only for Sarah Quantrill in the Millwall goal to keep out a Chivers spot kick.

The away side made the result safe with 20 minutes to go when Amber Gaylor picked out substitute Charlie Devlin, who twisted past Riva Casley to bend a shot into the far corner

Devlin then added a brace of her own on 84 minutes with a lovely chip over Demi Lambourne in the Oxford goal.

But the real fireworks went off in added time when the impressive Chivers blasted in a brilliant goal from a narrow angle for an Oxford consolation

Sixth-placed United play twice in the next four days. They host seventh-placed London Bees tonight (Thursday) before travelling to New Ferens Park on Sunday to take on Durham Women (4th).

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Shrewsbury Towo	38	23	78
2	Wigan Athletic	36	45	77
3	Blackburn Rovers	37	35	76
4	Rotherham United	38	18	65
5	Scunthorpe United	38	9	59
6	Peterborough United	38	12	57
7	Plymouth Argyle	38	8	57
8	Portsmouth	38	1	55
9	Charlton Athletic	37	0	55
10	Bradford City	37	-5	53
11	Bristol Rovers	38	-3	51
12	Southend United	38	-16	50
13	Gillingham	37	1	48
14	Blackpool	38	-4	47
15	Doncaster Rovers	37	1	46
16	Oxford United	37	-5	45
17	Fleetwood Town	38	7	45
18	Walsall	38	10	44
19	AFC Wimbledon	38	12	42
20	Oldham Athletic	38	12	40
21	Northampton Town	39	27	40
22	MK Dons	38	14	39
23	Rochdale	38	10	35
24	Bury	38	25	30

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More sport inside: U's: Sending off controversy | Ice Hockey: Stars shine brightest to win title | F1: Tough going for Oxfordshire teams in first race

Robbo hoping for good Friday in first home game

By George Wright

NEW Oxford United boss Karl Robinson admitted taking over at the Kassam Stadium was a 'no brainer'.

The 37-year-old swapped the Charlton Athletic dugout for United's last Thursday, becoming an early favourite to succeed Sky manager of the Year Pep Clotet.

Robinson met the players for the first time on Friday, just

Bright young manager will 'do a great job for us'

AMBITIOUS Oxford United chairman and owner Sumrith Tiger Thanakamjanasuth said the club has landed one of the brightest young managers in the game in Karl Robinson.

Having admitted his takeover complicated the club's search to replace Pep Clotet, the Thai businessman finally appointed Charlton Athletic boss Robinson last Thursday nearly two months after the Spaniard's sacking.

Tiger said: "We are really pleased that Karl has agreed to join the club.

"He is one of the brightest young managers in the game. People forget that he is still only 37 because he has been manager in over 450 games already.

"He knows this league and the one above he knows the players and I am sure he will do a great job for us."

He added: "The Oxford fans have been very patient but I hope they agree that this is a very exciting appointment for the club."

Robinson confirmed he felt he had to step aside at Charlton while they go through an uncertain takeover process.

"There are so many different circumstances that could happen there," he said.

"I offered to resign as I didn't think it was right for people to come in without their own man in charge.

"But, I really loved every minute of my time there and it's a great football club."

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Published by Taylor Newspapers Ltd, Newspaper House, 4A Hawkswerth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR. Telephone 01235 511700 (Head Office). Printed by Iliffe Print Cambridge, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6PP

ISSN 2398-6603

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